



W. C. POLLARD

PIONEERING IN THE PRAIRIE WEST

*A Sketch of the Parry Sound
Colonies that Settled near
Edmonton, N. W. T., in the
Early Nineties.*

By

W. C. POLLARD

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By

W. C. POLLARD

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*To
my father, Benjamin Pollard,
of Fort Saskatchewan,
Alberta.*



PREFACE

The author, W. C. Pollard of Uxbridge, Ontario, is a son of Benjamin Pollard of Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, who was a member of the Parry Sound colony that emigrated to the Northwest Territories in 1894.

He was born in Toronto, and received his early education in the District of Parry Sound and later at the Central Business College, Toronto. He prepared for matriculation by private tuition in the winter seasons, alternating this work with homesteading in Alberta, during the summers of 1904, -05 and -06.

He studied law with Lougheed, Bennett and Company, Calgary, and at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, being called to the Bar in Alberta in 1912; received the degree of LL.B. at Alberta University in 1916.

He practised law in Calgary until December, 1918, when his health became impaired, and he moved to a farm on the 5th Concession of Reach, Ontario, residing there for three years. At this time he was called to the Bar of Upper Canada, and has since practised as a solicitor in the Town of Uxbridge, Ontario.



CHAPTER I

BACK in the early nineties, in the beautiful little village of Magnetawan—which is in a northern district of the Province of Ontario—there dwelt a primitive people, whose chief occupations were lumbering and small farming, on lands which they by honest toil and general privations, had cleared from the dense forests.

The scenery was wonderfully picturesque, the huge rocks and small mountains, covered with a wonderful growth of trees and shrubs. In fertile small fields and clearings lived the settlers, rearing their children as free from the conventionalities of modern society as the birds that sang from the boughs of the trees.

Streams of crystal pure water gushed out from crevices in the rocks and trickled down to the valleys below, filling the air with a bracing ozone as it dashed and splashed against the rocks and stones.

Trout and chub filled the creeks and brooks, and the larger lakes half hidden in the dense forests were stocked with fish of all kinds which played merrily, with the flies as their prey, in the shadows of the overhanging trees and rocky cliffs along the shores.

Deer, bear and other wild animals, including the vicious timber wolves, as well as porcupines, roamed in the forests, and frequently visited the small clearings, exhibiting a marked fondness for turnip patches.

Foxes and weasels often took the chickens out of the

barnyards, which provided little shelter or security from preying animals. The hawks, after a preliminary circling of the horizon, which afforded them the view of a pretty landscape, especially when the leaves of the trees were turning golden in autumn, would descend and prey upon the poultry.

The snug homes, sheltered by the trees and hills, and situated in the small fields, were the habitations of a contented people.

In little red schools dotted here and there through the district the country teacher gave the children their first lessons in the three elementary studies. Here the children thought that all wisdom was dispensed, and the thought and talk of the country was how the small head of the teacher could carry all she knew!

These charms were fondly remembered and often discussed in later years by many of the people who emigrated from this district, while distance of time and space always lent enchantment.

While there were a few large farms, and some portions of the country were fertile, the land was for the most part light and soon exhausted.

The roads were rough and stony, with deep mud in rainy seasons. The long corduroy road of logs along the swamps with hills at either end, and the little taverns where the weary traveller obtained refreshments, were memories that clung to the tale of woe.

The homes of these people were chiefly for the women and children, for the greater part of the year being merely stopping places for the lumbermen and bush men during the few months each year that they were not engaged in their hazardous calling.

The sawmills humming, the logs floating down the

streams, with jams in the rapids, and the dangerous and adventurous life of the men in breaking the jams to allow the logs to pass on to the mills, were thrilling sights never to be forgotten.

The people as a whole were very religious and sentimental, and attended the frequent revival meetings which were fashionable and enjoyable about this time. The sleighs loaded with members of the large families and their visitors provided a proof of earnestness not excelled by the pilgrim fathers and early puritans.

The science of government and the trend of public affairs were topics of earnest discussion, and one would hear about the measures and qualities of the colonial statesmen of that time: John A. Macdonald, (who became Sir John later), Charles Tupper and W. R. Meredith; and their rivals, Mackenzie, Blake, Laurier and Mowat, with frequent references to Imperial statesmen, Gladstone, Bright, Salisbury and Chamberlain. Only by referring to the Star Almanac—an encyclopedia of facts and figures published by Hugh Graham of Montreal—could the heated arguments be settled.

CHAPTER II

THIS was the time of the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which joined all the Provinces of Canada together with bands of steel, supplying the arteries of commerce and the other interests of the country. The courage displayed against terrific opposition, and engineering difficulties surmounted, made this one of the greatest enterprises that the people of Canada had heretofore undertaken.

The Canadian Pacific Railway is a private corporation operating the first transcontinental railway in the Dominion of Canada, on which the golden spike in completion was driven in November, 1885, five years in advance of the time allowed under their contract with the Government.

The ceremony took place at the point named Craigellachie, twenty-eight miles west of Revelstoke, British Columbia. The spike was driven by Donald A. Smith, afterwards Sir Donald, and later Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal. With him was Sandford Fleming, who was afterwards Sir Sandford, the engineer-in-chief who blazed a way through the mountains in the early days. There was also present the general manager, W. C. Van Horne, afterwards Sir William, the second vice-president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

This was a historic event, and it is described by Sir Sandford Fleming. The scene was in every respect noteworthy, from the groups which composed it, and

the circumstances which had brought together so many human beings in this spot in the heart of the mountains—until then an untracked solitude.

All present were more or less affected by the ceremony which was the crowning act of years of labor, intermingled with doubts and fears and oft-renewed determination to overcome what at times had seemed insurmountable obstacles. Moreover, was it not the triumphal termination of numerous failures—the successful solution of the many attempts of the British people since America had been discovered, to find a new route to Asia?

The blows on the spike were repeated until it was driven home. A cheer spontaneously broke forth—and it was none of your half-hearted cheers!! The subdued enthusiasm, the pent-up feelings of men familiar with hard work now found vent!

Among others present on the occasion were Mr. Harris, a director; Marcus Smith, the engineer who had charge of the section; Major Rogers, who won fame as the discoverer of the Rogers Pass through the Rockies; John H. MacTavish, of the noted family of that name connected with the Hudson's Bay Company for many years; and Henry J. Cambie, who bought the railway through the Fraser Canyon, and who still lives at an advanced age in Vancouver, perhaps the only survivor of the historic event.

There was no banquet, however; no speech making; no display. The road was built for a purpose and for service, and when called upon for a few remarks, Mr. Van Horne simply said, "All I have to say is that the work has been well done in every way."

J. H. Radcliffe, who has been ticket agent for the

Canadian Pacific at Toronto since 1889, is one man at least in Toronto who remembers the driving of the last spike at Craigellachie. He was not there to witness the event, but his memory is that of handling, as an operator, the message of congratulation from Queen Victoria: "Her Majesty has watched the progress of the railway with much interest, and hopes for the future success of a work of such value and importance to the Empire."

The last spike was driven on November 7th, 1885. The following spring witnessed the inauguration of a regular passenger service, and since then the East has been in daily communication with the Pacific. Travel nowadays is much improved, but except perhaps in the very bad winter weather the old trains made very good time, and were but a few hours longer in traversing the Dominion than they are to-day.

The completion of this road was a part of the compact entered into by the Government of Canada with the crown colony of British Columbia when the latter joined the union of provinces called the Confederation.

The charter of the Canadian Pacific Railway was granted in 1881, and they received a bonus, road under construction valued at 25 million dollars, 25 million acres of land, and 25 million dollars in cash, which has been somewhat augmented since.

Section 20 of the above act provided that Parliament might reduce tolls so as to produce not less than 10% profit on the capital actually expended on the construction of the railway.

The building of this railway was an act rounding off Confederation; and the bargain made with British Columbia when she consented to enter the union was now fulfilled, and a short route to the East Indies provided.

The inauguration of the national policy protecting infant industries and encouraging manufacturing of all raw materials within the Dominion was introduced in 1878, and has since been the settled policy of the people of Canada, without very material change, regardless of which political party was in power. Nevertheless, some tariff tinkering has gone on at Ottawa, usually detrimental to the welfare of the people of the Dominion.

Now that the railway was built and the lands granted, the next move was to colonize the vacant lands, promote settlement in order to create business, and enhance the value of the company's lands.

One of the colonies that left the country surrounding the beautiful little village of Magnetawan is the subject of this book. The members located near Fort Saskatchewan, about 30 miles east of Edmonton, in Alberta.

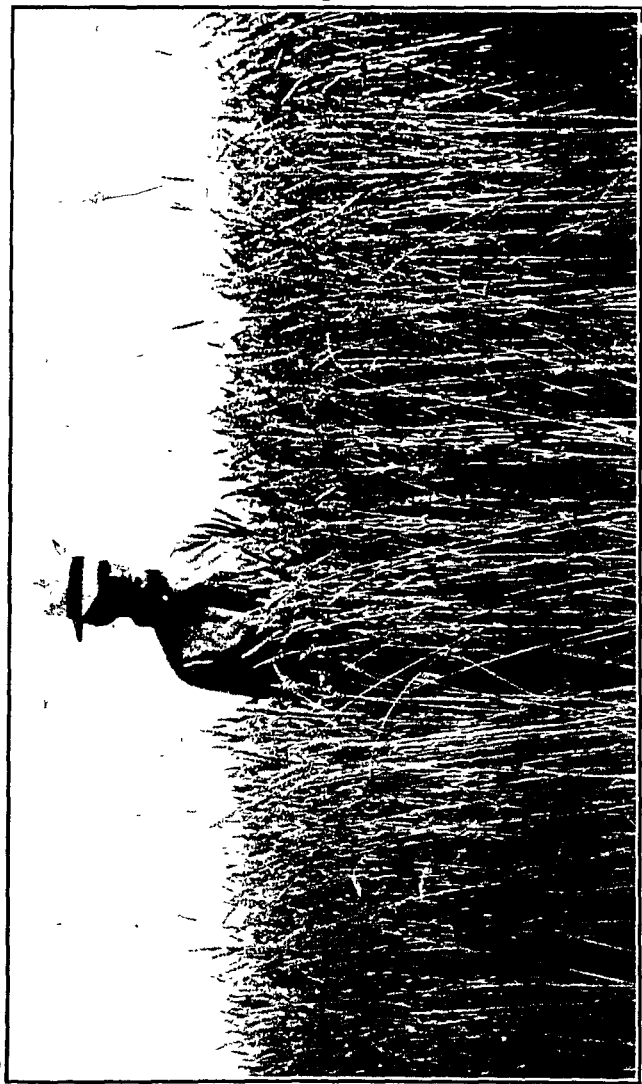
When the colony was first mentioned it was intended only to have members of the Church of England in Canada, and to settle at the mouth of the Moose Jaw River, but the agent of the C.P.R. soon opened the way for all to join and become members,

To see the stir among the people, and the number volunteering to go to what was then the far west, brought to mind the fact that "There are lives that are erring and aimless," as most of them did not know what was ahead of them in entering a new country, void of capital, and in many cases without a sufficient grubstake to carry them for even a few months under new and strange conditions. They were accustomed to earning a livelihood in lumbering operations in the backwoods of Ontario.

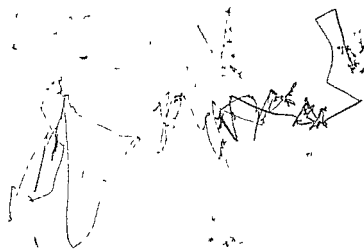
However, in the excitement it was not a question of going—the only question was when: this year or next?

When the majority realized just where they were, and in the light of prospects ahead, they marveled that they had ever attempted to remain among the rocks and the beautiful scenery in the Parry Sound District. This was the more forcibly brought home to them when they discovered that the lands they had cleared so laboriously were worth little or nothing in the market, as so many wanted to sell at once.

The slogan was, "All for the West. All aboard; if you can't get a board get a slab; but go anyway and anyhow, ready or not ready!! Everyone must go to the Promised Land!!"



A Field of Marquis Wheat in the Prairie West.



CHAPTER III

THE Northwest Territories were at that time known as Rupert's Land, and were under the jurisdiction of the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay—commonly called the Hudson's Bay Company—which is one of the oldest institutions in British America (in fact, the entire world) founded in 1672 and chartered by King Charles II.

The Company was governed in its early years by such gallant men as Prince Rupert, the Duke of York, who lives in history as James II of England; and that astute politician, the Duke of Marlborough.

The Hudson's Bay Company had rights and privileges which were very far reaching and complete, extending over a vast and imperfectly defined territory inhabited for the most part by savages and fur-bearing animals.

The forts of the Hudson's Bay Company or chief trading posts, were located usually on the banks of the rivers or lakes, and on rolling ground. The logs and timbers used for building purposes lasted a great length of time, owing to the climatic conditions prevailing in Western Canada.

The Company was given exclusive control over trade, lands, mines, minerals and fisheries, and the making and enforcing of laws not repugnant to the common law of England; the raising of armed forces for self-protection; building forts and maintaining garrisons.

All these and other opportunities and powers were contained in the famous charter which was granted by the Crown of England, and was the means of upholding the British flag and saving these vast territories for the people of England and the commonwealth of Canada, which would have otherwise drifted into the hands of France during the century of conflict with that would-be American power, and perhaps would have remained there, as not being worth any very strong action.

This was a great region which the Company came to rule over. It stretched from Lake Superior to Hudson's Bay, and far away to the frozen North, and West; over countries hardly trod by the most adventurous of trappers, unfamiliar to even the most experienced of Indian wanderers.

It extended over the prairies, and in time reached the Selkirks and Rockies; it came to the far shores of the Pacific and into the Island of Vancouver, down the coast and over the Oregon and Washington of the future; it expanded north into the wilds of Russian America and the Klondike and Alaska of a later time.

The growth and extension of the Company was, however, a slow and natural one. In the earlier days of its history the wars of the French and English reached the gloomy shores of the great Bay, as they did to the farthest southern point of the continent. Between 1670 and 1697 the Company lost 215,000 pounds sterling through French incursions—a very large sum in those days.

And so matters continued for nearly a century. Despite loss or gain, war or peace, the Company kept on its way, building forts, trading with Indians, fighting the French if need be, increasing its stock, and they

managed to make profits so large in some years as to far more than counterbalance incidental losses.

Everywhere throughout the wilderness its traders journeyed from fort to fort, meeting the Indians in picturesque pow-wow, and exchanging articles of trivial value but pretty appearance for almost priceless furs, or for the more common ones which were then so exceedingly plentiful without being deficient in value. Everywhere they found the element of adventure, the weird entertainment of savage life, the pleasures of a wild liberty, the joy of the chase over boundless regions, teeming with game and animal life.

While the mastery of the continent remained at issue between England and France, the Company was not subjected to much external interference or control, outside of the raids upon its territory already mentioned. In 1720 it was, therefore, able to treble its capital stock for a second time, and to continue paying its shareholders comfortable dividends.

But, after the supremacy of England became an undisputed fact, attention was naturally directed to the monopoly of the Company, to the natural riches of the region it controlled, and to the possibility of sharing in its profitable trade. Individual traders first drifted into the country, and then came the organization of the North West Company at Montreal, in 1774, with such untiring and energetic men as Stuart, McGillivray and MacTavish as its pioneers.

In 1798 the "X.Y. Company" was formed, but amalgamated seven years later with its Montreal rival. Meanwhile, the Americans had come in to increase the competition by the formation of the Mackinaw Company,

and in 1809 the famous Southwest Company was organized by John Jacob Astor.

A little later he formed the Pacific Fur Company, and up to 1813 maintained a tremendous struggle with his various rivals. In that year, however, he gave in to the Nor' Westers, and sold the whole business to them for some eighty thousand dollars.

During the next few years the competition and jealousy of the two great remaining companies were intense. The Hudson's Bay concern was, for the time being, outstripped by its opponent in energy, knowledge of the country and establishment of trading posts.

Owing to the system of partnership by which officers had the opportunity of becoming personally interested in its business, the North West Company obtained better men than did the other, and moreover benefited largely by the employment of French-Canadian voyageurs, trappers and traders, men accustomed to the wild life of the West, able and willing to obey their superiors—despite occasional lapses into recklessness—and with definite knowledge of the peculiarities and habits of the Indians upon whose assistance much depended.

The older company, on the other hand, preferred to employ hardy and vigorous North-of-Scotland men, who, though reliable and honest, were too unbending in their intercourse with the natives, and therefore unpopular.

This trade contest did much incidental good in opening up the country. The fur traders of the two companies pushed their explorations and traffic in every direction—away to the Peace River and Athabaska and the Great Slave Lake, over the Rockies into New Caledonia, or British Columbia—and among them all none was

more active or successful than John Stuart, of the Nor' Westers.

Mention should also be made of Lord Selkirk, an extraordinary man in many ways. Proud and independent in sentiment, stern and uncompromising in determination, vigorous and enthusiastic in policy, he was well fitted to be a pioneer of colonization.

Lord Selkirk brought out a ship load of the Duchess of Sutherland's tenants, and after varied difficulties and dangers they reached the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, where the present city of Winnipeg now stands.

These colonists suffered in every way in which it is possible for pioneers to have trouble. The Nor' Westers considered the soil their own, and every means of annoyance in the power of a strong corporation to inflict were freely used, till they culminated in a skirmish in 1816, when Governor Semple—who was acting for Lord Selkirk—and a number of colonists were killed by an armed band of Nor' Westers.

Lord Selkirk, however, could not control the obstacles offered by nature and though he brought his settlers supplies of food, seed and grain and implements at his own expense over and over again, they were forced to suffer untold hardships from the rigorous cold weather, and from floods and famine and unique plague known as the grasshoppers for two years in succession destroyed every vestige of crop and growing food product.

Eventually the colonists and their determined patron succeeded, and though the progress was slow, it was more and sure as the years went on, and when Lord Selkirk died in 1820 it was said that this success estab-

lished him in the minds of the people as "The Father of Manitoba".

He anticipated the vast golden wheat fields of the future, the whistle of the locomotive, the humming of the automobile and the roar of traffic in the large cities located where years before the inhabitants were sheltered in humble huts on the banks of the Red River.

Space in a short work such as this will not permit giving full details of the earlier settlement of these territories by others equally entitled to mention, but we must pass on to the year 1865, when various negotiations followed between the British and the Canadian and the Hudson's Bay Companies' officials in England. These included a fruitless mission by the Hon. George Brown, a former editor of the *Toronto Globe*, and a well known statesman in Canada both before and after Confederation.

The Hon. William MacDougall, otherwise known as "Wandering Willie", introduced into the new House of Commons at Ottawa a series of resolutions upon the acquisition of Rupert's Land as a part and parcel of the Commonwealth of Canada.

These resolutions declared that the Dominion of Canada should be extended to the shores of the Pacific; that the colonization of the Northwest, the development of its mineral resources, and the extension of trade within its bounds, were alike dependent upon a stable government; and that the welfare of its sparse population would be promoted by the extension of Canadian government and institutions over the entire region.

In the following year Mr. MacDougall and Sir George Etienne Cartier went to England to try to arrange terms

and in 1869 the arrangements were finally consummated between the Governments concerned.

Canada claimed the whole region as of right; it now accepted the territory upon the condition of paying 300,000 pounds sterling to the Hudson's Bay Company. It granted at the same time a twentieth of all lands surveyed for settlement in what was called Rupert's Land, and gave certain guarantees against undue taxation.

The Company, for its part, retained possession of its historic trading posts, and maintained its influence with the natives and its special facilities for the fur trade.

Although the trading monopoly was lost, and the progress of settlement and railways in time changed the nature of much of its business, the Hudson's Bay Company continued to be, and is to-day, a great power in the commerce and upbuilding of the Northwest.

It was truly an Imperial heritage which the new Dominion thus acquired. Its lakes were like great inland seas, its rivers ran in some cases two thousand miles from their source to the sea. Its fertile but at that time unknown wheat fields were to prove practically illimitable.

Its atmosphere was found to be bracing and full of a tonic which can be found nowhere else. Its seasons were beautiful and pleasant in their warmth, healthy and strength-giving in their cold.

Upon its vast plains the flowers of springtime bloomed with wonderful beauty; overhead the summer sun blazed in strength which forced the crops to a high and rare fruition.

The rivers and lakes teemed with fish; the plains near the Rockies were protected from storm and well suited

to cattle raising. Under the surface, the earth contained vast coal deposits, petroleum fields and, in the far North, untold wealth in gold, iron, copper, and asbestos.

But most of these facts were unknown in 1869, and a period of storm and stress and slow development had to be faced before they reached the consciousness of the Canadian people, and the knowledge of the World.

The mercantile interests of the Hudson's Bay Company are evidenced to-day by their large stores in Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver, indicating that trade and commerce are still the Company's chief pursuits under their motto: "Pro pelle cutem". But their large land interests make this Company one of the chief land owners west of Lake Superior.

The Hudson's Bay Company has the name of always being first and foremost in the payment of taxes levied against their lands, and in purchasing land from the Hudson's Bay Company the settler gets all rights to mines and minerals both above and below, and this is not the case in buying land from other companies, or obtaining homesteads under the government regulations. These latter usually reserve to themselves the mines and minerals, and generally the right to work the same.

The Company's policy was largely the work of Donald A. Smith, a former high official and later a Canadian statesman who was later known as Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal. He died only a few years ago, and lived to see the culmination of the fruits of his labors.

The story of Manitoba's progress during the years which succeeded the Fort Garry uprising, commonly called the Red River Rebellion, which is referred to in a later chapter of this book, and the admission of

the youthful Province into Confederation on July 15th, 1870, is an oft-told tale to Canadians.

The slow growth at first, of the little town at the junction of the Red River and the Assiniboine, which took the place of the fort around which such severe struggles against Nature and amongst men had raged since the days of Selkirk; the rapid rise of Winnipeg into a modern city with an ever-increasing population; the steady accretion of farmers or agriculturists (as they are more properly called), into the vast and fertile prairies stretching away beyond the distant horizon through the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and to the frozen zone toward the far North; the phenomenal boom typical in its inception and progress of all periods of expansion, which came to Manitoba in 1879-80, and merged the solid investments of thousands of Ontario business men and speculators in fantastic land schemes and non-existent prairie villages of which surveys and blue prints had often not been made.

The reaction which followed the boom made progress slow and rather uncertain for some years.

The ox-cart even now touches the electric street car or the luxurious coach of the modern railroad. The fringed and faded Indian rubs shoulders with the white farmer, and the commercial traveller on his rounds in pursuit of business.

The din of the city, the whirl of the automobile, the music from the radio, the whistle from the traction engine, make the unsettled and nomadic half-breed hunter look across the table of his hotel at the latest tourist from Piccadilly or the habitue of Hyde Park!

The forts of the Hudson's Bay Company still stand in occasional loneliness, but are more and more coming

into contact with farm houses of the prosperous settlers, or face to face with the growing villages of an increasing population.

The buffalo are gone, but their bones are yet picked up on the boundless prairie, and sold by dirty-looking squaws on the clean platforms of a continental railway.

The white people of Manitoba have themselves greatly changed since the stormy days of 1870. The pioneer life of farmers who have drifted in by tens, hundreds and thousands, to till the rich and easy soil of the prairie, has been one of inevitable hardships at times, and especially so in seasons of unseasonable frost or occasional flood or unwelcome drought.

They have encountered serious discouragement from a severe climate, not at first comprehended, and they have often suffered from intense solitude and hard labor, while danger from cold and storm have been present at many times.

But all these things were really nothing as compared with the perils of the French or Loyalist pioneers of Eastern Canada from wild animals or wilder Indians. Whatever they may have been, the conditions have now been conquered, and out of them has come a people delighting in the life of the prairie and the cold of its winters, loving the fresh and fragrant air of their healthful Province, full of western vigor and progressiveness, and pulsating with a firm belief in its future progress.

CHAPTER IV

ANIMOSITIES were stirred up occasionally when the Canadian Government attempted to take possession of the Northwest Territory after the purchase of the rights from the Hudson's Bay Company.

The natives, mostly descendants from the aborigines, had possession of some of the lands, and they became alarmed lest their rights of possession so long enjoyed be interfered with.

This was the cause of an armed attempt, under Louis Riel, as leader of the half-breeds and Indians, to make resistance. One of the chief events was the shooting of Thomas Scott, a loyal British subject and member of the Orange Order, by Riel's followers, after a trial by the rebels.

It was easily understood how the story of Thomas Scott's death inflamed the people of Canada. It is said that Scott was led before the walls, where six soldiers from the rebels, were detailed to shoot him, while he was a blindfolded and helpless but orderly prisoner.

One soldier refused, and of the five shots that were fired only two reached him. He fell to the ground, wounded in the chest and shoulder, and a man named Guillemette stepped up to put him out of his pain.

A French half-breed, John Bruce, who was the first President of Louis Riel's rebel government, has left

a record of what happened. Guillemette discharged the contents of a pistol close to Scott's head, while he was lying on the ground. - This ball, however, took the wrong direction; Scott was still not dead, but this did not prevent his butchers from placing him alive and still speaking in a rough coffin made of boards.

It was nailed and placed in the southeastern bastion, and an armed soldier was placed at the door. Several witnesses, it is said, between the hours of five and six in the evening, heard the unfortunate Scott speaking from under the lid of his coffin, and it was known that he had been shot at half past twelve.

The words heard and understood by the French Metis were only these: "My God! My God! Take me out of here and kill me!!"

He was later stabbed with a butcher's knife, and after several days his body was carried to the Red River and pushed through a hole in the ice. This occurred in the early spring.

Late in August, Colonel Wolsley entered Fort Garry at the head of the Sixtieth Rifles. Riel, meanwhile, escaped to the United States.

Unfortunately, he came back to Canada once more, to head the rebellion in 1885, this time to be captured and tried, condemned and hanged at Regina, thus avenging the brutal death of Thomas Scott.

This act did excite the members of the Order to which Scott had belonged in Ontario, and stirred the whole Dominion, with the exception of the Province of Quebec, where subsequently the leaders of the Liberal Party in that Province—under the late Hon. Honore Mercier—tried to save Riel from being hanged.

This was even after the second rebellion in 1885.

which will be referred to in a later chapter of this book.

The threatened disallowance of the Jesuit Estates Act, 1887, was another troublesome question. The Act was passed by the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, recompensing the Jesuits (a religious order of the Roman Catholic Church) for losses they were said to have suffered in the rebellions that took place in demanding more responsible government in Canada.

Members of the certain element in the Province of Ontario attempted to have the Dominion Government disallow the Act within the year after its passage, as provided for in the British North America Act, one of the grounds being that in the preamble of the Act, which was a compromise for a larger sum claimed, it was said His Holiness approved of the settlement, amount and basis.

The Dominion Government, however, led by the able leader, Sir John A. Macdonald, and ably assisted by Sir John David Sparrow-Thompson—who had just been made minister of justice—stood by the provincial rights, and declined to interfere with a question within the jurisdiction of the Province of Quebec.

However, a small band of members of Parliament, afterwards known as "The Noble Thirteen", attempted to make this an issue in Ontario, and to put an end to Sir John; but the crafty old statesman soon put an end to the attack by introducing a bill into Parliament. This was called "An Act to incorporate the Orangemen", an order without any corporate existence at that time in Canada.

This Act was passed by a majority in both Houses of Parliament, and assented to by the Governor-General in due form. It served to unite the extreme elements

in the Conservative Party, led by Sir John, and in the succeeding contest he was supported in Quebec for his constitutional stand, and in Ontario for his recognition of the Orange Order, and similar measures, one being the execution of Louis Reil.

Louis Riel, it should be mentioned, went to his death bravely. His counsel at the trial attempted to defend him on the ground of insanity, but Reil broke up the defence.

"The Government is trying to prove me guilty," he said; and his friends were trying to prove him insane. Life without the dignity of being an intelligent being to him was not worth living.

As Riel stepped on the platform of the gallows with a candle in one hand and a crucifix in the other, he said good-bye to his friends, and thanked the doctor for his kindness. *Allors, Allez au ciel.* The trap was pulled and he met death instantly.

Louis Riel is buried beside the Red River, in the shadow of St. Boniface Cathedral, whose quaint towers overlook the opposite bank the site of Old Fort Garry.

The cause that Riel fought and died for was a sacred cause, and he had a great deal of popular sympathy, but for the brutal death of Thomas Scott for which he was held responsible, it is very doubtful if he would not have been pardoned or at most banished for life. A brief account of one of the battles of the rebellion may perhaps not be out of place in this work.

On Saturday, May 9th, 1885, the Battle of Batoche opened. The forces of Louis Riel, and General Frederick Middleton of the Canadian Army, faced each other for three days, at the end of which time the loyal troops dashed into the rebel emplacements and finally

closed that chapter of Canadian history referred to as the Northwest Rebellion.

Considering the number of troops engaged, and the scope of the fight, its historical importance is entirely out of proportion with battles of the late war. Only twenty one casualties were recorded, which is less than a fifth of the casualties in some of the many trench raids of almost daily occurrence in France.

Yet the Battle of Batoche will always appear in the country's annals as an outstanding and creditable accomplishment in the field of war.

This was the first occasion upon which Canada's own militia was pressed into service without assistance from Imperial troops, and the lads from factories, offices and farms proved themselves to be prideworthy descendants of the purest British fighting stock, as their sons were worthily upholding their names thirty years later.

During the European war a Canadian officer was a prisoner in a German camp commanded by an officer who had studied military science with the German General Staff for years. This Camp Commander told the Canadian that the performance of the Government forces in the Northwest Rebellion was recognized as unique in military history.

Upon no other occasion had a detachment been sent such a distance, with so few facilities for movement and supply, and the objective accomplished in so short a time. For hardship Napoleon's retreat from Moscow might have compared with this expedition, but the same general's passage across the Alps was not to be compared with it.

The 10th Royal Grenadiers, comprising 271 of all ranks, under command of Lieut.-Col. H. J. Grasett, for

many years afterward the Chief of Police for Toronto, were the only Toronto troops engaged as a unit at Batoche.

It had not been expected that the militia would be required to help the Mounted Police put down the Indian uprising that had been reported early in March of that year, but on the evening of March 27th, Colonel Grasett received sudden orders to mobilize his regiment and be prepared to move off at very brief notice. Four companies paraded the next day, Saturday, and on Monday morning, supplies having been arranged, the detachment left Toronto.

What some of the veterans declared was the worst feature of the expedition occurred far from the scene of hostilities. The railroad had not been completed along the north shore of Lake Superior, with the result that the intervening stretches had to be covered by sleigh and foot, for forty-two miles.

Then flat cars were available for 150 miles, after which two more twenty mile marches were made to reach the other stretch of rail, and a fourteen mile march concluded the trek.

In all, this foot-slogging the Grenadiers had to make their way through deep snow, over rough forest trails, while freezing blasts swept their way down from the north. One man went insane. Two developed rheumatism, and a dozen became snow-blind, and had to be led.

Most of them recovered and went to the front, however—a glorious feat for the regiment in view of the fact that they were all urban dwellers, unused to the northern woods in winter.

Through Winnipeg to Qu'Appelle, out on the prairies

they journeyed by train, and then undertook a 250 mile march to overtake General Middleton, the commander with whose column they were to proceed.

Middleton was surprised when the Toronto troops caught up with him at Clarke's Crossing on the Saskatchewan River on April 18th. He had with him 800 men of all ranks, including the Grenadiers, the Winnipeg Field Battery, the 90th Winnipeg Rifles, a battalion of Ont. Midland troops under Colonel Williams, French's Scouts, Boulton's Mounted Infantry, and a few armed teamsters and Indian fighters of the West.

Lord Melgund, afterwards the Earl of Minto and Governor-General of Canada, was his Chief of Staff; Lieut.-Col. Montizambert commanded his artillery, and Lieut.-Col. Von Straubenzie was in charge of his infantry.

General Middleton sent part of his force across the river to proceed along its bank, which he followed on the east side. They moved off on April 21st, and on the 24th the first opposition was met at Fish Creek.

The Grenadiers were with the numbers who crossed the river, and they were now ordered to return to the other shore. Captain J. Cooper Mason took his company first, with Asst. Surgeon G. Sterling Ryerson.

Those who remained with General Middleton had experienced a rather sharp engagement with a group of Indians entrenched in a ravine, eight men being killed and forty wounded.

By the evening of the 24th, these rebels were driven out. General Middleton decided to remain at that point until more supplies came up the river by boat, which resulted in a fortnight's rest.

On the morning of May 9th, the entire force pushed

up to within a short distance of the village of Batoche, on the river bank, six days' march south of Prince Albert. It was here that Reil had his headquarters, with Gabriel Dumont, his military leader.

That fighting would take place was expected, and at about nine o'clock they heard the first rifle shots.

The rebels were spread across in front of their advance in rifle pits, with their right flank resting on the river and the open prairie on their left. There was considerable wooded land to conceal them, with a clearing between the woods and the houses of the village.

General Middleton halted and made his dispositions. Being a wise man, and knowing that for every one of his men whose life was lost a sorrowful vacancy would be left in civil life, he decided to first endeavor to induce Reil and his rebels to give up their useless struggle and surrender.

While a desultory fire was kept on the 10th and 11th, he sent out scouts to communicate with the enemy. The only message brought back was that the rebels wanted a chance to remove their women and children from the village before the artillery opened fire upon the houses.

The general ordered them to proceed with the removal at once, and the non-combatants were sent up along the river bank.

On the morning of the 12th he launched his attack, the Midlands taking the left and the Grenadiers the right. The Toronto regiment's front led straight to the village, across a cemetery in front of which many of the enemy were entrenched.

With a cheer and determined rush they invaded these pits and drove the enemy out of them. They pushed on through the brush and into the open, gaining

the crest of a bluff on the left that overlooked the plain.

The Midlands were kept busy with covering fire, which they directed against rebels on the other side of the river who were harassing the attackers. During the first rush Lieut. William Fitch was killed, falling almost at the foot of Doctor Ryerson. Capt. French was also killed by a shot from the ravine.

Steadily throughout the morning the Grenadiers pushed forward, and early in the afternoon they made their final dash for the town.

Some bayonet fighting occurred when they clashed with a few determined half-breeds, but by three o'clock they were in possession of the settlement, and were skirmishing out along the river banks and on the plain.

Major Dawson and Captains Mason and Manley of the Grenadiers had been wounded. During the three days 21 casualties had been suffered and since leaving Toronto the regiment's strength had been decreased from 271 to 230.

Dr. Ryerson, now General Ryerson, was kept busy with the wounded in the village, and during the evening of the 12th bullets continued to fly into the town, so that he was actually working under fire. He handed them over to the First Field Ambulance, which had arrived under Surgeon Major Casgrain. With this unit was Dr. E. E. King, who is still Medical Officer of the Grenadiers.

Dr. Ryerson was forced to work with the crudest accommodation; candles being his only light by night, and steers' hides, stretched across wagons, being his ambulances. He made a Red Cross flag out of old

cloth and placed it on his medical wagon, the first flag of that kind ever flown in Canada.

On the 13th General Middleton rested his forces, and on the 14th marched northward again. Many Indians and half-breeds had surrendered and on this date Reil and Lepine, one of his chiefs, were brought in by scouts.

On the 20th the troops reached Prince Albert. On the 24th they started for Battleford. They joined there the Queen's Own Rifles detachment, and remained until July 3rd, when they started on their long journey back to Toronto.

They reached Toronto on July 23rd, 1885, to find the entire populace turned out to receive them. Bands were playing, colors flying, and the greatest celebration prepared that the city had ever enjoyed to that date.

Enthusiasm ran almost as high as on the Great War armistice celebration. The officers and men were almost buried in flowers. They had quelled the Northwest Rebellion and received their own people's praise.

Many of the volunteers joined the Northwest Mounted Police, and remained as the custodians of law and order in the Territories.

Many of the sons of deceased soldiers were taken on the force as bugle boys at a very tender age.

The author is indebted to a French half-breed, Johnnie Ouelette for some of the above information, as he was said to have been a follower of Reil throughout the engagement, and to a half-breed named Sammie Flavelle, a poor old blind man who lived below the hill in a log hut at Fort Saskatchewan in 1894. He had been one of Sir Garnet Wolsley's guides during the Red River

Rebellion, and was remembered by Lord Wolsley until he died, having received many token of esteem.

Godfrey Steele, a brother of Lieut.-Col. S. B. Steele, was a resident near Beaver Lake in the Northwest Territories, and had his cattle and other live stock confiscated by Reil's followers. He furnished the author with a good deal of information.

Godfrey Steele was married to a half-breed, and it was thought, at the time that her sympathies may have been with the rebels.

The Canadian troops having carried themselves so well; the memories of the killed and wounded at Cut Knife and Fish Creek and Batoche; the feeling of unity which grew as a result of Canadians from so many Provinces standing shoulder to shoulder in a struggle on Canadian soil; the remembrance of the spontaneous enthusiasm which everywhere greeted the returning troops, had combined to develop the slowly growing national sentiment of the people as neither Confederation nor the great practical measures of progress during ensuing years had been able to do.

Out of evil had come good; out of rebellion had come greater unity; out of war had come a wider patriotism.

CHAPTER V

THE discussion of all these topics interluded and beguiled the time for recreation from the toils of logging bees and barn raisings and the building of Government roads in the isolated District of Parry Sound.

To see the operations of one of these logging bees with about ten yoke of cattle hauling logs, and gangs of five or six men rolling them in heaps, each party choosing sides and making a race to see who performed their jobs in the least possible time, was a wonder.

The winning sides would receive the cheers of the crowd, and their regard was to have their meals first and to prepare for the dance in the woods which usually followed.

Quilting bees were very popular among the female population, and in connection with these it was said that many a reputation perished as the patches were woven together!

To disturb the peaceful tranquility of the residents of the beautiful little village of Magnetawan, where the maple trees shaded the homes of the people, there came in the summer of 1891, D. L. Caven, a colonization agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

He was what is often called a "good mixer", and told stories around the village inns of the wonderful fertility of the Northwest Territories. But he himself admitted

At the time that he had never been there, but intended going the following spring.

Some of the people had been in Manitoba or farther west, and a few, in years gone by, had journeyed to the gold diggings in California. But most of them had never been out of the woods, or beyond the interior of the then northern portion of the Province of Ontario.

→ However, until the arrival of the C.P.R. colonization agent, no wanderlust had prevailed, but after his arrival the Northwest fever swept the countryside. All were talking of leaving their homes and surroundings and trying to obtain means to emigrate to what was known as the Northwest Territories (previously Rupert's Land) where the Hudson's Bay Company had their trading posts, and the buffalo roamed freely, prior to the building of the C.P.R. and the Rebellions in which had figured many a brave soldier.

The energetic colonization agent gave three leading citizens a pass to Edmonton and return. These were Hugh Irwin, Reeve of Chapman Township; Rev. Young, an Anglican clergyman of Magnetawan; and T. G. Pearce, clerk of the Township of Chapman. They were also accompanied as far as Red Deer, in the Territories, by William Piper, who was then a well-known brick maker.

The trip was made in the most favored season of the year for seeing the "Gardens of the Desert", and the delegates returned with glowing reports of a land flowing with milk and honey.

They were favorably impressed with the fertility of the country, the deep black soil with a clay sub-soil; the beautiful bluffs that dotted the prairies, composed of poplar, balm o'Gilead and willows, with occasional spruce

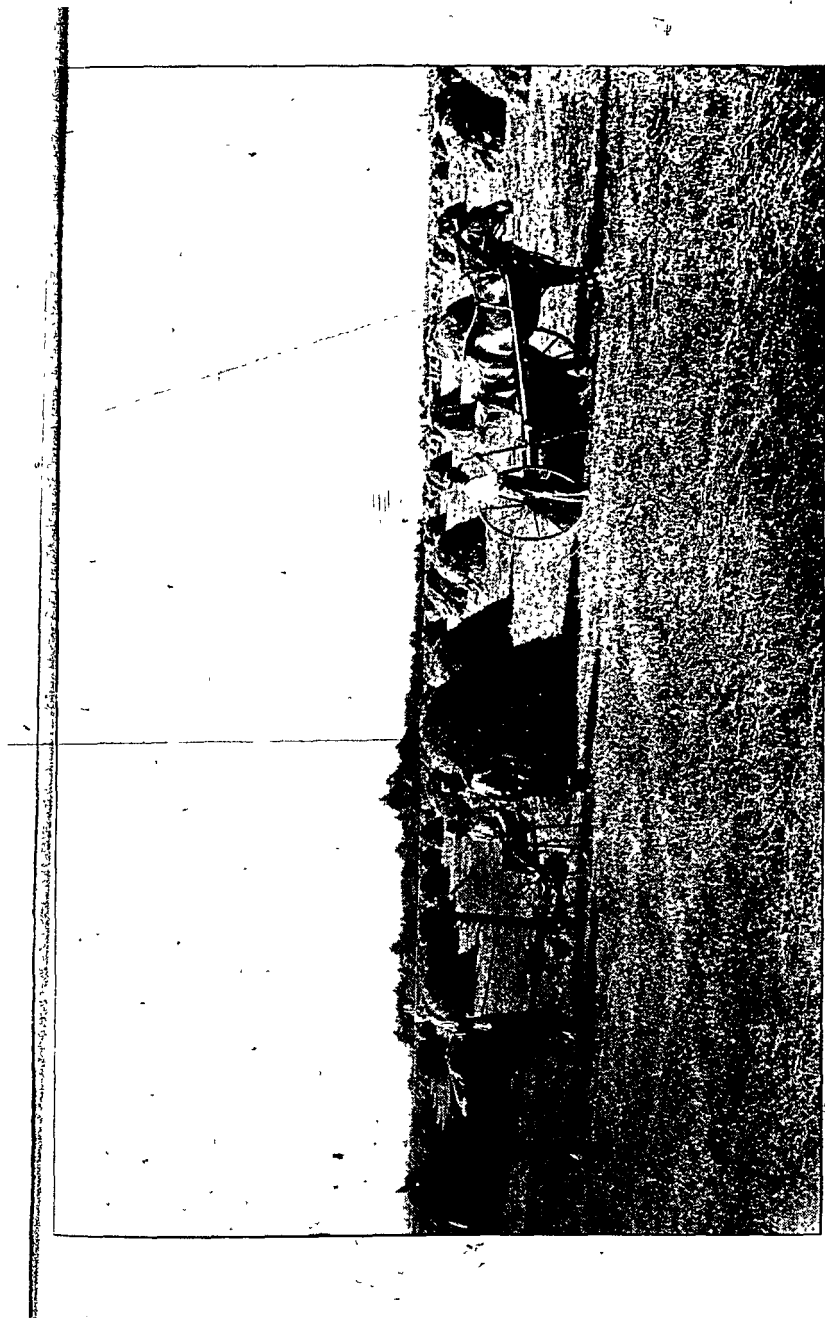
and tamarac, the swift running waters of the great Saskatchewan River; fruits of the earth in abundance; rich deposits of coal that could be seen somewhat exposed on the banks of the rivers and creeks throughout the entire country which awaited the arrival of immigration and posterity.

On hearing these glowing reports, a general uneasiness soon permeated the people, and nearly everyone within the district expressed the intention of moving to the new and fertile country as soon as possible. The spirit of the adventurer seemed to break out among them, and the love of pioneering—until then latent within their breasts—appeared to pervade their whole beings. Few were much attached to their little bush farm homes, that were once so dear to their childhood days.

It was not long before the C.P.R. officials were sent for, with the object of having a colony formed and removed from the district into the territory surrounding what is now the flourishing city of Edmonton. At that time Edmonton was but a town of about two thousand people, without railway facilities, and with only a ferry as a means of communication with the outside world. It was, however, a fur trading emporium.

In the year 1890 the Calgary and Edmonton Railway was completed from Calgary to the south bank of the Saskatchewan River opposite Edmonton. The C.P.R. stopped there and built station, hotel and elevators, and founded a town (which is now part of the city of Edmonton) South Edmonton, afterwards Strathcona.

The people of Edmonton were greatly incensed at the time, and thought that a high level bridge should have been built and the road extended to Edmonton, as was ultimately done. However, while public opinion was



Making Hay in the Denise, West



inflamed, word came from Ottawa, that the Land Offices, custom house and other Government buildings were to be moved across the river.

Mr. McCauley, who was Mayor of Edmonton at the time, greatly protested and threatened an insurrection if this were attempted. The Mounted Police—at the time under command of Supt. A. H. Griesbach—moved towards Edmonton, but the Ottawa authorities recalled the order, and the offices were never moved, greatly to the joy of Mayor McCauley and the residents of Edmonton.

When the city of Edmonton became a more important center, the high level bridge was finally constructed across the Saskatchewan River.

* * * *

The principal difficulty for the intending colonists was to raise sufficient money to pay for transportation and freight on livestock and settlers' effects, as there were no prospects of selling their bush farm homes and small land holdings. Making up their minds to go west was comparatively easy, but having no collateral securities or bank accounts, to get the money was a sticker, and it seemed an insurmountable difficulty.

However, the intending settlers had some horses, cattle and household furniture, chiefly consisting of stove, table and a few chairs with the proverbial cupboard that somehow or other was never empty; and some agricultural implements. The stoves were of that variety which had helped to clear the bush farm by burning up the wood, and the high ovens on most of these stoves had the picture of a deer, horse or other animal moulded thereon, making them somewhat ornamental as well as useful.

On these chattels the Canadian Pacific Railway Company was asked to take security in the form of a chattel mortgage for the passages of the people and the transportation of their live stock and settlers' effects. Arrangements were soon made such as they desired, and it is a matter of record that the full amounts were soon paid by these industrious people, and the beneficent C.P.R. was well repaid with interest for its generous treatment.

CHAPTER VI

IN the month of April, 1892, on a day singled out as one of those memorable days that can never die, the colony left Sundridge, Ontario, bound for Edmonton and the Northwest Territories.

Some two hundred cars were loaded with live stock and settlers' effects and the passenger trains accommodated men, women and children. The night before leaving Sundridge most of the people camped in a large hall situated on the main street in the village of Sundridge.

The night was occupied by singing, music, and making general preparations for the train trip. Each one wanted to tell the other of his prospects, and it seemed to be a matter of pride to tell how little they would have to start on when they reached their destination.

Castles were built in the air, and these hopes and anticipations were rudely shocked when the following winter came without the colonists having made due preparations for the severe climate.

The great object the majority had in mind was that of obtaining land in a new and virgin country. It was the consensus of opinion that land would rise in value as settlement proceeded, and very few had any idea of the extent of the lands in the western part of Canada.

As colonization has been going on rapidly since the completion of the C.P.R. in 1885, even now only a fringe

of the vast lands in these regions has been brought under cultivation.

The people composing this colony rank among the makers of Canada, and their going left many a gap among those remaining, which was sooner or later to be filled by others following—and some few returning—as is bound to be the case when so many people leave their accustomed habitations.

In those times it took some ten days to make the trip, as the live stock had to be let out and later re-loaded after resting, in order to meet the requirements the railways had imposed upon them by the authorities. The great mud in the Winnipeg stock yards was quite a spectacle.

Men, women and children arrived after a two thousand-mile journey entirely by rail, at what was then called South Edmonton, and a general rush ensued for homesteads on which to establish their future homes.

The land office was visited and maps procured which showed the lands open for homestead entry, and a few guides were supplied by the Government to direct the land seekers.

The trip over the railway passed with but few inconveniences, but those who rode in the stock cars heard a well-known character remark that if he were sentenced to the penitentiary he would like to go in a stock car with settlers' effects loaded by amateurs, as he would certainly be glad when he got there!!

Homesteading has been described as a gamble in which the entrant bets ten dollars with the Government against 160 acres of land, that he can stay on it six months each year for three years, without starving to death!!

If he succeeded the patent or deed for the land was

granted by the Government, providing certain small improvements were done; viz.: a small house and stable built, and 15 acres cultivated. If he did not succeed he lost his ten dollars—and many did lose, as the records attest.

Nearly all these people settled in what is known as the Beaver Hills and Beaver Creek Districts, at and around the old Northwest Mounted Police post of Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

The early settlers helped to sustain themselves by digging gold in a very crude fashion along the banks of the Saskatchewan River and on the sand bars—floating sand having formed small islands here and there—with what is called a “grizzly”, and a blanket to catch the fine gold dust.

These were the chief instruments of the tenderfoot miner's occupation, and the blanket was washed in a tub, quicksilver being used to gather the fine gold dust.

After straining through chamois, the quicksilver was drained off, and the gold remained, being heated and melted, when it would form into nuggets which were readily cashed at the Imperial Bank of Canada, then located at Edmonton.

Prairie chickens, coyotes (prairie wolves), and rabbits were very plentiful and the wild ducks, geese and other fowl in season were quite common and the settlers found ample time during the first few winters to indulge in the pursuit of game of all kinds.

The crops were not very abundant in the year 1893, as the land took considerable preparation, and experience was required in order to produce results.

The deep black soil with a marly clay sub-soil was covered with luxurious prairie grass, and on the rising

land rose bushes, pea vine and vetches were entwined in some cases around small poplars and willows.

Therefore, the only season of the year that the husbandman could profitably break the virgin prairie was in the month of June, and the early part of July. This was known as the rainy season, and the growth of grasses and other materials referred to above were green and soon rotted when turned under, the sap enriching the soil.

At any later season of the year the grasses and other material cured in the western climate similar to making hay, and when this dry material was turned under, the eggs laid by flies and other insects would hatch the following season, and the plague known as the grubs which would devour all the grain or crop sown thereon was the result of what was called breaking the virgin prairie out of season.

In the spring of 1894, a colony composed of an additional 200 families again set out from Sundridge, Ontario, destined for Edmonton, and the Northwest Territories.

The Hacketts, Campbells, Calverts, Flukers and many other large families went with the first party, while with the second group were the Featherstons, Pollards, McGees, Staffords and Pearces.

The latter colony arrived at Edmonton in April 1894, and most of the members of the first Parry Sound group were there to meet their friends and to see who were among the new arrivals. The former offered to render any assistance in helping the new settlers locate in their future homes.

The day of arrival was beautiful and clear, the atmosphere very inviting and bracing, but the sight of most

of the members of the first solony was somewhat dampened by the fact that they were clad mostly in the homespun that they had taken with them two years before, and in many cases the industry of a frugal wife and mother was attested by the patches that were on the garments!

The hardness of the water and scarcity of soap had changed many a bright countenance to such a degree that they were hardly recognizable. Some of the male members had not even had the luxury of a shave since they had left Parry Sound some two years before, and they looked for all the world, adorned with their tattered fur coats, like the wildman referred to in Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe!!

The prairie fires were aglow, and the whole country seemed either to be burning or to have been burned. Fires were seen in the distance, and at twilight the flames would rage higher and higher.

The people lived in small houses, for the most part built with logs and sod roofs, and in some cases entire sod houses and sod stables were seen dotted here and there. It was then a prairie country, with numerous bluffs of poplar, balm o'Gilead and willows.

As it was not long since the latest Northwest Rebellion, the posts of the Mounted Police gave the settlers a feeling of security such as is seldom felt in a new country. The officers guarded the homes of the people from the ravages of the prairie fires, and quelled any disorders that happened to break out. The medical officers and veterinary surgeons of the force proved very accommodating and willing to oblige the early settlers.

The fertility of the country and its advantages for farming were soon demonstrated, and it was found that

enormous crops of wheat, oats and barley could be grown even that far north on the American continent.

At that time Edmonton was the farthest point north that a railway served on the continent, as referred to in a speech by the then Governor-General of Canada, the Earl of Aberdeen, when on a visit to Edmonton in that year.

The year 1894 was very dry, and as a consequence the breaking and cultivating of the prairies was a very difficult task, gophers and grasshoppers being very numerous, as is the rule in dry weather. However, the next few seasons were blessed with sufficient rainfall, and this gave the industrious husbandman ample opportunity to prepare the land for receiving the seed in good condition.

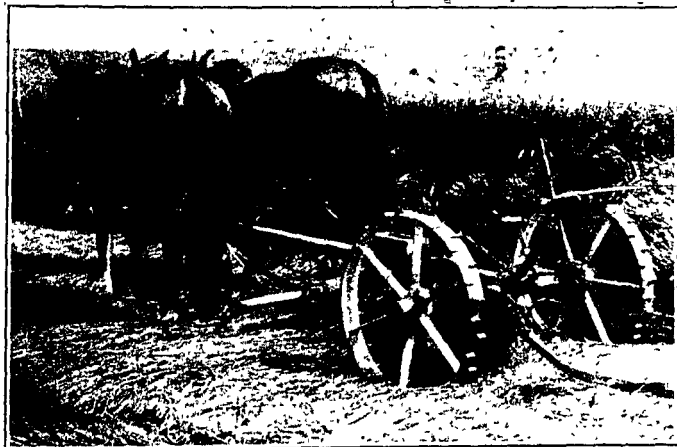
The abundance of rain made the roads to the markets from the settlements almost impassable. As the increased traffic wore through the sod and into the black, miry soil, the wheels of the vehicles were soon buried to the axles, and it was a common sight to see horses and wagons stuck all along the trails. In fact, the entire road appeared to be a mud hole.

The limited form of territorial government was in a hopeless position to cope with the difficulties of road building, their grants from the Dominion Government being very little beyond the amount required for the civil list. To commence the systematic draining and grading necessary to make the general foundations for road building was totally beyond the means at hand.

The only thing to be done, therefore, was to bridge the creeks and small streams, and license ferries to cross the larger ones; and to make the roads through the



Harvesting Potatoes with a Modern Digger in
the Prairie West.



Cutting Native "Slough" Hay in the Prairie
West, 1894.



bluffs, that could be used in winter seasons when nature made the ice bridges and froze up the muskegs.

This was an annual occurrence as the thermometer would drop even in October to 20 degrees below zero, and the ice on the lakes and rivers would be transparent.

If potatoes were not dug all was lost for that season, and importation from far away Prince Edward Island was the only remedy.

The great scarcity of fruit made the table somewhat bare, and gave it a scanty look, but importation from the Province of British Columbia soon developed, and as the settlers prospered they usually laid in a supply.

It soon became the object of the settlers to try to obtain better railway facilities, in order to obviate the long haul over almost impassable roads.

Railways had been built to too great an extent in some parts of the country, at the expense of others less fortunate, and this is now one of the great problems that faces the Canadian people. There are three trans-continental railways operated within the Dominion of Canada, whereas there should have been but two, with branch lines where needed to feed the main arteries of transportation.

In the early days distances were so great that many a dreary hour was spent by the settlers in going to market to buy supplies, and to sell the produce of the pioneer farm, which was scant indeed.

Hogs, known as "mortgage lifters" in the old Province of Ontario, were among the first "fruits" that were realized by the early settlers in these regions.

The growing of wheat was realized as uncertain, as it was only once in two or three years that crops of this kind could be depended upon, but the coarser grains

that supplied the feed for the hogs were more certain each year, and in consequence hog raising coupled with dairying and the rearing of poultry was followed successfully.

The lack of manufacturing in the Prairie West was and is still an obstacle that keeps the country poor. One can notice on the shelves of nearly all the stores throughout Canada West canned cornbeef, chicken and other products of such nature mostly imported from the United States or Eastern Canada, while the raw materials to make these articles is found in Western Canada and in most instances is of little value.

Take for instance the number of hides produced in Western Canada and inquire where the shoes come from that the people wear—one would marvel that not a shoe is manufactured west of the Great Lakes.

The same may be said of the woollen industry. The West has a very cold climate, and the people need abundance of woollen clothing and blankets, yet nearly all these manufactured goods have to be imported either from the British Isles or Eastern Canada, while the raw material that is, the wool, has very little value west of the Great Lakes.

This is also true of nearly all the manufactured articles, and a policy that will encourage manufacturing in the West is required, and the Government cannot give this matter too much attention, as the growing of wheat and other cereals in Western Canada will in time impoverish the country and industrial centres of population are necessary in order to provide a home market for Western farm produce.

Whatever difficulties may have been the lot of Western Canada for the last twenty-five years, it is obvious that

they were man-made, rather than due to any fundamental defect in the country itself.

In 1898 the production of wheat in the West was but 32 million bushels, while the average for the last three years is 354 million bushels. Other field crops show equally remarkable growth.

We often speak in disappointed tones of the development of mixed farming in Western Canada, and I think there is some reason for so doing. Yet when one looks at the comparative figures now with those of twenty-five years ago, for cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, dairy products, egg production, honey production, and even for those of certain small fruits, one cannot but conclude that a great work of development in a country with great opportunities has been going on in our West over the course of the last quarter century.

I doubt if there are many, if any, other parts of the world to-day which still offer as great opportunity as do our Prairie provinces, for the agriculturist with small means and who desires, through his own will and effort, to accomplish a gratifying measure of success.

There had been a tendency on the part of some of our Provincial governments to attempt to give relief by what is usually spoken of as "paternal legislation". I sincerely believe that, on the whole, such legislation has not lessened the hardships, but has actually increased them!

There are some signs that the truth of this is beginning to be recognized by the people of the provinces themselves where such legislation has been enacted.

But there are still some who hanker after false gods, notwithstanding that one of the evils from which Canada is suffering to-day is the extension of too much credit, rather than too little, there are those who would

have Governments enter still more largely into various schemes of granting credit. This, however, would only tend to hamper the initiative of the people themselves.

If home industry is busy, the farmer is prosperous, and if not, agriculture suffers. It is surely obvious that Canada needs a greater population, and that would mean a greater market for farm products, and would develop more tonnage for the railways and other transportation which are now more or less a burden on the people due to scarcity of traffic.

It follows then that with greater home markets, there would be lower freight rates, better prices for the farmers, better wages to the working men, and a greater distribution and circulation of wealth throughout the country.

The West has immense coal fields, natural gas, water power, and electricity could be developed to an unlimited amount, and people with energy, industry and enterprise will always find a ready welcome and the rewards for their labors assured.

Agriculture to-day pays as it ever did, and this should be emphasised and placed before the younger generation, stressing the advantages of farming as a career.

The farm home life occupies a most advantageous situation to-day, with the attraction of home life itself, telephone, radio and better roads.

Free lands and cheap lands abound in the Prairie West and the great Peace River country awaits settlers and colonization.

CHAPTER VII

IN the beginning of the year 1896, with the settlers clamoring for more and better railway facilities, more schools and better roads, there loomed up the general elections of Canada.

The Government in Ottawa was not functioning smoothly, as great differences of opinion prevailed within the ranks of the Conservative party concerning what was afterwards known as the famous Remedial Bill, dealing with the Manitoba school question.

This political unrest caused general stagnation in trade and business everywhere felt the effects. A change of Government was desired by the people—or at least by a majority of them.

The Government of the Dominion at this time was led by the late Hon. Sir MacKenzie Bowell, a very able and rigidly honest Old Countryman, who hailed from Suffolk, England, but came to Canada with his parents when only ten years of age.

He had been a member of the Dominion Parliament since 1867, and filled various offices within this period, but the Conservative party, which he led and relied on for support, had been 18 years in power, and was suffering from internal strife. Sir MacKenzie Bowell is said to have described his Cabinet as a "nest of traitors".

Before going to the country, the party leaders sent to England for Sir Charles Tupper, High Commissioner for Canada in London, who was asked to resign his

post and return to Canada to become the leader of the Government in the coming contest.

Sir Charles accepted the task—being even then at an advanced age—and through his great ability the fight was made a memorable one, but could not save his party from defeat.

His government was beaten at the polls, and although he retained his seat in Cape Breton and led the Opposition in Parliament for the next four years, he later lost his seat and dropped out of Canadian politics.

Sir Charles Tupper and the members of his government resigned office on the 17th of July, 1896, and were succeeded by Hon. Wilfrid Laurier (afterwards knighted), leader of the Liberal party. He formed a strong government, and remained in power until 1911, when his government and party were overthrown on the Reciprocity issue.

Sir Wilfrid, (then Mr. Laurier), was elected at that time by a western constituency which is now a flourishing portion of the great Province of Saskatchewan, then but an electoral division of the Northwest Territories.

A member was elected from Alberta, a real old-timer—although a young man—of considerable ability, to support the new government about to be formed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. This member was destined to sit for the Edmonton riding for 21 years, and was elected in five successive general elections. I refer to Frank Oliver, M.P.

He later became a member of the Privy Council in Canada, and a Cabinet Minister with the very independent views at the start, but he ultimately became a servile party supporter, and was mentioned as a Liberal

leader, and is now a member of the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada.

A few years rolled by, and no further steps were taken by the new Government towards any improvement in this part of the country, and dissatisfaction was felt, as most of the settlers, knowing that they were not to live forever, wanted railways constructed, roads built, schools erected, post offices opened, and the Territories developed.

During 1898, R. B. Bennett, a young man from New Brunswick, had settled in Calgary, which was then a rising town, and commenced the practise of law. He was almost immediately elected to the Northwest Legislature, and his fame was spreading through the length and breadth of the land as a coming Moses to lead the people.

So far, however, he has not turned out to be a Joshua, although he is still a young man with position, wealth, learning and great ability. He is a leading member of the Dominion Parliament, and a Privy Councillor.

His friends often said of him that he resembled somewhat the famous Edmund Burke, who did not succeed to office, although many a man with a great deal less talent obtained office easily.

But the chief honor that has been bestowed on Hon. R. B. Bennett has been that he retains in season and out, the unbounded confidence of his friends, the common people, and the City of Calgary has always been proud to honor him as its representative and leading citizen.

As an indication of how much he appreciates the honor, it was once suggested that he be called to the Senate. But Bennett replied, in his characteristic manner, "With-

out any reflection on the Senate or any of the members thereof; nevertheless, I would rather represent Calgary in the House of Commons than have ten seats in the Senate!!”

If one were to enumerate his cardinal qualities, he would say that his fidelity to principles was the leading trait in his character. Strong on the principle of the British connection in success or adversity, in this he never falters. Strong for the principle of encouragement for infant industries and the general development of Western Canada together with the spread of education among the masses of the people.

In the next general election, 1900, after a tremendous campaign, the Government candidate was elected by a majority; but there was such a stir from this young orator's eloquence and criticisms, that after the awakening it was not long until the Canadian Northern Railway made its appearance in the far Territories, as a coming transcontinental railway, building at a very rapid rate.

This raised the hopes of the people, and the little towns, villages and hamlets that were to be on the line started to boom; new settlers poured into the country, and Edmonton became almost at once a city, with an ever-increasing population. Real estate that had laid dormant “since Adam farmed the planet” came to life.

Speculation was rife, and a great many people turned their attention from proper callings to the new field of adventure. Prices soared, activity was everywhere, optimism prevailed, and great values for real estate in the future were foretold, friends persuading all their relatives and acquaintances to invest in realty—and the result is well known.

Concurrently with the advent of the Canadian Northern Railway into Edmonton, another railway known as the Grand Trunk Pacific was in embryo as a transcontinental, which sent expectation sky high!

The new Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan came into being in September, 1905, practically over night, so swiftly were things now progressing.

The inflation of values is a condition of affairs only possible in a very new country, during the prevalence of what are called good times, through the sudden increase of land values arising from some such causes as the proposed construction of the two transcontinental lines mentioned previously.

Visions of a great and growing country, something beyond anything reasonable or possible, seemed to be born in a night, out of long continued indifference and ignorance.

People who had known nothing of, and cared less for the vast possibilities of the wheat areas of the West seemed suddenly and fully conscious of their existence and of what might be done by the building of railways through the fertile areas.

The members of the Parry Sound colony, being by this time comparatively old settlers, were somewhat skeptical of the boom that was now in operation, as it was distinctly of American type, and had never been experienced by them or their ancestors. Aladdin's lamp was to be nothing in comparison with the effects of these factors in Western development.

Population, wheat fields, cities and towns, industries and wealth were presented before the eyes of the investing public, and most of them were beguiled.

The price of building lots in Edmonton rose above the value of land centrally located in New York!! All kinds of land schemes were floated in other provinces, as well as among the local inhabitants.

Towns and cities grew up (on paper!) as by magic, and thousands of people in Ontario, especially, sold solid securities and took over their little savings, and even mortgaged salaries and properties in order to invest them in town lots of which a survey had seldom been made.

The result was a natural and inevitable one. For a time everything prospered and every kind of public enterprise went ahead. Population did increase a little, especially in the cities and towns, and money poured into the country for investment.

Land values rose all over the Province, but—the end came; the bubble of inflation broke, and millionaires in prospect found themselves paupers in fact, and it was a common saying that "Millionaire Lewis cannot pay his rent!"

This expression appears at first sight a conundrum, and was in vogue before the opening of the movies as a catch phrase; but it turned out to be a reality. Of course Lewis never existed, but the name was used in order to give the horse laugh to others who only recently thought themselves to be millionaires, but were in reality only "brokers stoney broke!!"

CHAPTER VIII

THE creation of the new provinces doubled governmental machinery, new positions were created, taxes increased, and it appeared at one time that every other man would have a "soft" government job, as many were shying clear of the toils incidental to farming and ranching; especially native born Canadians who came from the East, and had the rudiments of education, and most of them with an indiscriminate taste for beer and other luxuries that are sometimes under the ban.

A great many became civil government officials, real estate brokers, auctioneers, local members of the legislatures, homestead inspectors, etc. The Britisher or foreigner for the most part stuck to the land with the old-timers who had been in the country before the boom days.

This "over-government" in Canada is one of the chief drawbacks to the Dominion at the present time, as Canada is the fourth highest taxed country in the world, and with no army or navy to support, it should, if properly governed, be the lowest. There are, however, too many factors connected with the government of the country.

There is a Senate, patterned after the House of Lords in the Old Country, composed at the present time of 96 members, each drawing annually a salary of four thousand dollars, making a total of \$384,000 annually. In

addition there is the Speaker of the Senate, drawing a big salary, together with clerks innumerable, all at a heavy expense to the taxpayer.

There is also a House of Commons consisting of 245 members, each drawing the same salary as the Senators.

In addition there are nine provincial legislatures, the members varying from fifty to one hundred and twenty in each province.

The hopeless part of the present situation is that under the British North America Act, i.e., "The Canadian Constitution", these officers will increase automatically with the increase of population, and with the Prime Minister of Canada, numerous members of his Cabinet numbering at the present time eighteen, and the nine Prime Ministers in the different Provinces, each with a number of Cabinet ministers, the government machinery as is easily seen will soon be overloaded, and the British North America Act will, of necessity, have to be amended.

Let us compare the State of New York, with a population equal to that of the entire Dominion of Canada at the present time. Yet it has but two members in the United States Senate, and these will never be increased, no matter how populous the State becomes.

In Canada, on the other hand, the reverse is the rule, so that while Canada has no army or navy to support, the people tax themselves for the purpose of keeping up a white-collared brigade!

It requires more than 16% of the annual gross production in Canada to pay the cost of Government—Federal, Provincial and Municipal.

This means that the farmer who grows 1,000 bushels of wheat must had over 180 bushels to pay the high

cost of government; the maker of automobiles who builds 100 must hand over 18 of them.

That is what the farmer and manufacturer in the Dominion of Canada are doing to-day, but it is not realized, as most of it is paid indirectly by taxation.

Direct taxes are increasing by leaps and bounds. When the author located his homestead in Alberta in 1902, the direct taxes were annually \$4.50 for schools, and \$2.00 for roads, (local improvement), but at present, on the same land, the annual taxes are \$90.00, and it has no great amount of improvements on it!!

Taxes on farms throughout rural Ontario have increased in about the same proportion, yet some wonder why the young man leaves the farm!!

The taxes may be quite as high in the towns and cities, but the buck is more easily passed to the next fellow!! But the farmer cannot work the land without valuable machinery and live stock, and his assets are easily found and taxed.

Suppose some solons at the opening of the Dominion Parliament were to rise and burst forth in a concerted racket, and relieve the country of a number of these officials—would it not be beneficial to the inhabitants, and an encouragement to immigrants?

Efficiency in the Civil Service should always be preserved, but economy is a great relief to the taxpayers, and unnecessary expenditure has a tendency to hamper business and stifle thrift. For a great many people look to the Civil Service as a means of livelihood when they should look to other callings.

In recent years it has often been said that too many people have been diverted from their legitimate business by pastimes and short roads that appear to lead

to wealth and leisure, and this has been especially true in Western Canada.

The chief idea of going to a new country—and one of the principal inducements—is to obtain land, either free, by doing homestead duties, or purchasing the same at a low price, then building new homes and making a new start in life.

Most homesteaders take a particular pride in working their oxen and horses and breaking and cultivating the virgin soils, obtaining the deed and patent to the land direct from the Crown. This appeals mostly to the British born or their near descendants, and this is the class that are "the salt of the earth!" especially in the development of the Prairie West.

In some parts of Canada a clerkship in a drygoods store, or a subordinate position in a bank is considered—especially by the female population—to be much better than farming. The sturdy agriculturalist is often one of the younger sons who has left the old sod and is building Britain's greatness in the colonies.

You will find him on the plains—sometimes the "remit-tance" type—you will find him in the mines, and through the forests, always on the job, and with a welcome warm and true!

Among the inflowing population in some sections, chiefly from the foreign countries of Europe and Asia, the rights of full British citizenship after three years' residence conferred upon them, was such an innovation that a great many did not know how to appreciate it, and these foreigners were swayed mostly by fear, in order to support those in power and authority.

They did not understand the British principle of a democracy; the governments could only stand when sup-

ported by the people they governed. They had always been kept down in their own countries, and had dared not oppose the powers in political control.

The main issues in the first provincial elections in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1905 were the rights of the provinces to control their natural resources, lands, timbers, minerals, water powers, and schools, unfettered by any interference from outside.

It was contended by the provincial Conservative party, led by the young and eloquent R. B. Bennett (now Honorable), that the lands, timbers and minerals were the rightful heritage of the people of the territories out of which the provinces were created, and that the administration of these natural resources should be located at the capitals of the different provinces, and not at Ottawa, the Dominion capital.

It was estimated that the Province of Alberta contained 250,000 square miles, or 160,000,000 acres of land, deducting 13,000,000 granted to railways, settlers, and "scrip", a writing given to half-breeds descended from the Indians who were born after the Rebellions, entitling them to take plots of land containing 320 acres, and reducing the amount for bodies of water within the borders, it still left a large portion of the lands yet untouched.

From the odd numbered sections, if sold, and the money received from this source properly invested from time to time in good standard securities, a revenue would have been perpetually derived from the sale of these lands, and with the interest on the investment, the burden of taxation would have been correspondingly decreased.

The even numbered sections (except 8 and 26, granted

to the Hudson's Bay Company), would have still been available for free grant homesteads under the King's Regulations.

The townships in the Prairie West are surveyed in 36 sections, each containing one square mile of land, and each section is sub-divided into four quarter sections of 160 acres, which is the amount allowed a homesteader as a free grant—he being a British subject by birth or naturalization, or declaring his intention to become one, and of the full age of 18 years (21 years before deed is granted).

On the other hand, the provincial Liberal party, led by Hon. Alexander Cameron Rutherford, contended that the rights to the lands in these territories out of which the new provinces were created, having been purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company through the Imperial Government by the Dominion of Canada as a whole, and in consideration of the costs of the two Rebellions in taking possession of the Territories in 1870 and 1885, that the lands therefore belonged to the Dominion of Canada, and should be held by it, and a money grant payable annually to each of the provinces from the Dominion should be accepted in lieu thereof.

This policy was accepted by the people in the general provincial elections which followed.

The school policy providing for the state support of public and separate schools, was also settled in the Dominion Act creating the new provinces, which was the bone of contention at that time.

The money grants looked rather large in those times of free and cheap lands, but subsequent events have shown that the people sold their birthright for a mess of pottage, as the representatives of every political



Herd on Native Grasses, in the Prairie West.



party have visited Ottawa, the Dominion Capital, clamoring for their natural rights, the mines, timbers and lands, without which the upkeep of civil government bears heavily on the taxpayers. This is now being felt in the Western provinces.

Some scientific thinkers took the view that a royal commission should have been appointed, composed of members representing the Dominion of Canada and each of the provinces about to be inaugurated, to take stock of all conditions and settle all matters as between a trustee and a "cestui que trust", charging the provinces with the purchase price of the rights of the Hudson's Bay Company, costs of the two Rebellions in taking possession, costs of surveying, administration, road improvements, and a just and proportionate share of railway building, and giving credit to the provinces for the homestead entry receipts which the Dominion received (the licensed revenue the Dominion received from the mines, sales of timber and fisheries, together with the receipts of the lands sold or granted).

This question will probably be taken up in the near future, as the Provincial revenues will require to be augmented and the original provinces will certainly demand that any increase subsidy paid from the Dominion Treasury will have to be on equitable basis.

As the four original provinces put up the money that purchased the Hudson's Bay Company's rights to the new territory, and also paid for the costs that were incurred in the quelling of the two Rebellions that were caused by the taking possession of these lands,

In Alberta huge deposits of coal are located, and it would appear that the supply of coal for the whole of Canada will at some future time come from that

Province. The people of Canada own and control two of the largest transcontinental railways, and it should be an easy matter to have this coal mined in Alberta and delivered throughout Canada.

The chief obstacle, however, has been that the governments in the past have sold portions of these coal lands and mines to speculators, and the speculators have been in a position to ask high prices for the coal.

There are, however, huge tracts of coal lands still under the control of the Dominion Government, and the policy of granting them to speculators should be stopped, as the coal was placed there by Nature evidently destined for future generations that would inhabit those plains, and the Government should only charge a small royalty on the coal and allow it to be mined by any person who would pay the royalty.

This, of course, providing that they complied with the general mining regulations as to safety, fair wage laws, and other legislation. No monopoly of coal lands should be granted to any corporation or individual.

The policy of reserving the coal and other mineral rights is always enforced with regard to homesteads granted under the King's Regulations, as it is plainly set out in the patent or deed that all mines and minerals including coal and natural gas are reserved unto His Majesty, his heirs, successors and assigns.

The reader will therefore see that no coal rights are granted to settlers, but this is not the case when the Government grants land to the railways and other corporations. But when railway companies sell the lands, they always sell everything except reserving unto themselves all mines and minerals, and the right to work the same, so the settler does not get the coal or other

minerals, even when he purchases lands that have been granted to railways.

The railway companies themselves sell these rights, as a rule to other speculators and in some cases they keep them until their value is ascertained.

The only exception to this is in the case of lands purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company—*i.e.*, section 8 and three quarters of section 26 in each township—these, as stated previously, take all mineral rights, as the policy of the Company has always been to grant all the rights they received with the lands. "*Cujus est solum, ejus est usque ad Coelum.*"

CHAPTER IX

LIFE on the homesteads was filled with hardships, mingled with mirth, and one can readily imagine the struggle necessary to obtain the elements of an education beyond that given in the primary public schools.

The poverty on the frontier is shared by all, and it is not that humiliating poverty that is witnessed where there is class distinction and consequently manhood or womanhood is not degraded.

In the nineties throughout Canada times were hard, and in the particular portion of the Northwest Territories where the Parry Sound colony settled there was no manufacturing or industry, excepting a few flour mills and saw mills and some buildings in the towns and villages. Consequently the phrase, "Stick to the farm", was enforced in greater or less degree.

However, the unexpected rise in village and town lots made the avenue to culture more easily travelled, and this was hailed with joy by those who were looking beyond the confines of frontier life. The rise in values came so suddenly that the easy money was found knocking at your door just at the period in life at which it was most welcome; namely, when a student is pursuing his studies to enter any of the professions, or looks forward to entering business of any kind.

Mention should be made of the fact that before any universities were established in the western provinces,

the Canadian Pacific Railway gave bona fide students a half-fare rate going and returning from college. This was greatly appreciated, and proved a mighty big help even to the author, who took full advantage of the company's benevolence.

For the first two or three years the colonists found rabbits a means of subsistence, and it was often remarked, "Rabbit—or no breakfast!!"

In dry seasons the great scarcity of water was another obstacle the early settlers had to contend with, for in some localities there was a dirth of this essential.

When the writer moved to his homestead, the first thing done was to pitch a tent, which afforded shelter until a log shack could be built.

The first well dug was only some ten or twelve feet deep, and it was thought at the time that the water would be sufficient to supply stock and household use. This, however, proved a delusion, and a well had to be drilled 240 feet to supply water for stock throughout the year; the water, however, rose to within 17 feet of the surface.

This deep well expense was common in some parts of the Prairie West, and in many cases settlers put on their first mortgage in order to pay for the costs of the well.

The erection of new buildings, ploughing the prairie, cultivating and fencing the homestead were interesting and fascinating occupations.

Fencing materials were very difficult to obtain, and having been accustomed to the wooded landscapes of the Parry Sound district, most of the colonists thought of the old worm fence idea. They hauled the wooden materials from the poplar bluffs and willow bunches,

mile upon mile, to make fences that frequently helped to feed the prairie fires which raged every spring and fall for years, until the roads were graded and the prairies cultivated.

The hauling of fire-wood and fence material was done in the winter seasons, and some of the storms left their marks on many an early settler, for under the sleigh box in a bluff was sometimes the only shelter available for man and beast until the storm subsided.

Coal was plentiful and easily obtained, but the majority of the settlers had stoves capable of burning wood only.

No fences or poorly constructed fences, caused many an irksome job of hunting horses, which would stray usually to southern portions of the Territories, as the climate there seemed more inviting, many of them having been raised in those regions.

It was essentially a ranching country, along the Canadian side of the International Boundary, between the United States and Canada—the 49 parallel of latitude.

The homesteaders consequently spent days and weeks searching the vicinity of their homes, only to come to the conclusion that the horses had gone two or three hundred miles farther south to their original rambles. It was then that the newly arrived immigrant would bless the Canadians, as he imagined his animals had been driven away clandestinely, and secreted pending a reward which might be offered.

This feeling was often expressed thus: "These blasted Canadians; they will rob you and call it rustling! I prefer an American outright!" Rustling, it might be remarked, is the term applied to stealing—when you are not caught!!

The fact was often overlooked that it was a very large pasture field, extending over thousands of miles from the Gulf of Mexico on the south, to the Arctic Ocean on the north; with Hudson's Bay on the east and the range known as the Rocky Mountains to the west—the international boundary, being only an imaginary line, being no obstruction to straying animals.

Properly constructed fences of woven wire, supported by cedar posts would have saved all this trouble, but capital was lacking in most cases, until the money should be wrested from the soil by industrious cultivation.

With the advent of an English colony that settled near Fort Pitt, later Lloydminster, wheat took a lead that has since made the Province of Saskatchewan famous, and these people took many prizes in the United States and Canada for superior grains of all kinds.

Prohibition of the liquor traffic was looked upon in those times as an Utopian theory, and the old spree indulged in by the employees of the Hudson's Bay Company and the ranchers' cowboys, was quite common and verged on the fashion!!

However, it was soon found that over-indulgence in strong drinks as a beverage was responsible for squalor and was not conducive to the well-being of the people, and in later times (1915) these were the first provinces to enact prohibitory laws, with beneficial results.

The world war was at that time at its height, and a British statesman gave the signal that "Britain was fighting three enemies: Germany, Austria and Rum!" As a result, rum was prohibited in nearly all the provinces of Canada for a time.

The great amount of bootlegging carried on clan-

destinely since the war has been the cause of a swing of the pendulum the other way, and a vote for the general control of the sale of intoxicating liquors was recently taken, and it is to be hoped that it will be well administered by the government that is to control it.

Each little hamlet throughout western Canada soon had its local newspaper, and in some cases two or three papers, were located in a "one-newspaper town". This resulted in an annual crop of failures, each in turn making its debut, and then its obituary within a few months, as the reading public did not appreciate most of the efforts put forward.

There were, of course, many papers that were well received, such as the *Calgary Eye Opener*, edited by the late Robert Chambers Edwards; and the *Edmonton Bulletin*, which was early established and edited for years by Hon. Frank Oliver, who was a pioneer in these regions.

The first issue of the *Edmonton Bulletin* was on December 6th, 1880. It was about the size of a sheet of newspaper, and contained up-to-date editorials, local news, general news and advertisements.*

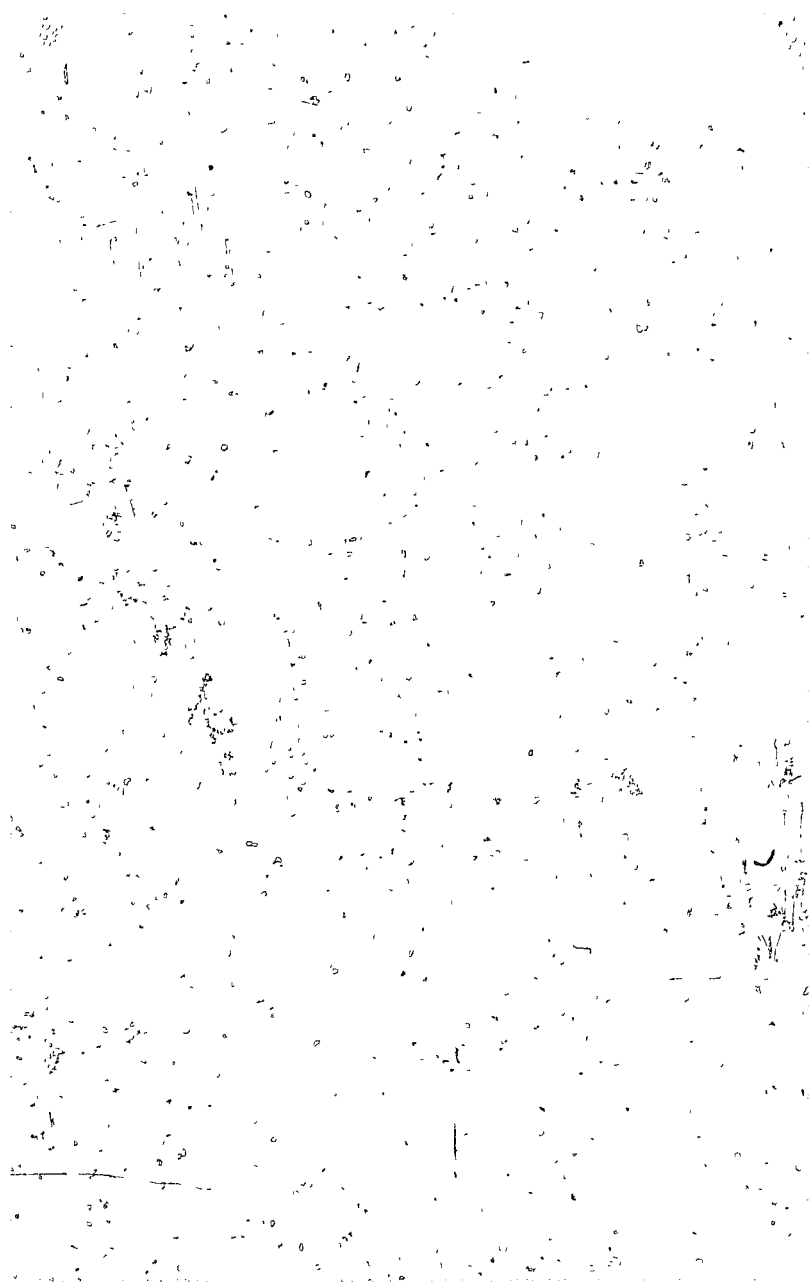
The *Edmonton Bulletin* was the second paper issued in the Northwest Territories, the *Saskatchewan Herald* being the first, published at Battleford, N.W.T.

The hand press that printed the *Bulletin*, was said to have been brought overland from Winnipeg to Edmonton in a "Red River Cart". The *Bulletin* grew until it reached the size of one of the modern eastern dailies, and it has been a great factor in building up the Prairie West.

*The writer is indebted to M. McCauley, M.P.P., for this information.



Modern Home in the Prairie West, 1926



The proprietor of the *Bulletin* started as a young man, and grew grey in his service to the public. The chief Government offices that he held were:

A—Member of the Northwest Council.

B—Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Northwest Territories.

C—Member of the House of Commons for the riding of Alberta, which composed nearly all the territory included in the present Province of Alberta.

D—Minister of the Interior and Privy Councillor of Canada.

E—Member of the House of Commons, representing the riding of Edmonton, and he is at present a member of the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada.

And to his friends and political opponents alike, he was always known as plain "Mister Oliver"!!

It has been said of him that no member of the House of Commons was more honorable in his dealings or more indefatigable in his labors. When the history of the old Northwest Territories is written, no name deserves to stand out more prominently than that of the early editor of the *Bulletin*.

His paper circulated among the Parry Sound colonists, and it was greatly enjoyed for its fairness in public affairs, even by those who were opposed to the views it often expressed.

The punctuality of Mr. Oliver's attendance as a member of the Northwest Assembly and later the House of Commons, was a criterion to all other members.

With the completion of the transcontinental railways, the collapse of the boom in Western Canada was com-

plete, and many dreary tales are told of the fortunes that might have been!

It would be difficult to find any who made and saved money out of all the wildcat schemes and speculations, as most people had the experience of being the last holders of real estate, agreements for sale or purchase—where the other fellow fell down—and mortgages of merely fictitious value.

With the market for this real estate gone, the securities of little or no value, the "suckers weaned", and taxes accumulating, only those could weather the storm who had made and saved a sufficient nest egg to carry along, or those who had not plunged beyond their depth in a sea of speculation which could have only resulted in disaster.

In addition to the real estate boom that burst like a bubble, the discovery of petroleum created another stir and financial kiting almost without parallel, and hundreds of dollars were wasted in petroleum promotions that amounted to little or nothing.

That there is petroleum in paying quantities in the Province of Alberta has been demonstrated and proven, as operations are now successful in several wells, from which the crude oil is extracted and a large refinery is already under construction.

The prosperous times that vanished after the transcontinental railways were completed led the people to realize that only by proper development of the natural resources could material advancement be made in an agricultural country such as the Prairie West.

Here the annual crops of grains, roots and live stock amount to immense sums of money, and this industry must for years be the chief source of income for the

people until such time as manufacturing industries are established in the West.

Infant industries will need a good deal of encouragement or a protected market, as the climatic conditions will necessarily make skilled labor expensive.

The West is blessed with coal in abundance, natural gas, water-power and raw materials such as hides, wool, furs; but these are annually shipped out and the finished manufactured articles brought back.

This means the payment of freight both ways, and retards the growth of population and the proper development of industries which would be of great benefit to the communities in the Prairie West, in creating a home market for some of the produce.

The western part of Canada, being separated from the more populous parts of the World by vast stretches of country, and far inland from tidewater on either side, makes heavy freight rates inevitable.

The Rocky Mountains on the west side, and the distance from the head waters of Lake Superior on the east make natural barriers that are hard to overcome in marketing the produce and securing supplies. Thus the creation of wealth is a slow process.

The get-rich-quick element in the population is soon attracted to the mining camps of British Columbia or the gold diggings of the far-famed Yukon, and the oil and petroleum fields now being discovered.

In 1898 a number of adventurous spirits endeavored to push their way from Edmonton to the Yukon, with great risk to human life, as gold had been discovered on Bonanza Creek, in the Yukon Territory. In the excitement a number abandoned their homesteads and

useful occupations to join the great army seeking for gold.

A great many started over the long, bleak trail, down the rivers which all run north from Athabaska Landing, 100 miles north of Edmonton. They crossed lakes devoid of vessels, few completing the journey, and fewer returning. Those who came back, in many cases found wealth only at the expense of their health.

Slowly the country developed its agricultural resources. Town and city grew side by side, and the colonists who had left the little village of Magnetawan and the country surrounding it, remained to improve what is now, and has been for many years, the most productive part of this great Dominion of Canada.

The marks of their handiwork will be impressed on that great country—for many generations to come. Schools have been erected, youths and maidens have been married and children born, secondary schools have been established, hospitals built, and churches dot the countryside, while a university has been established, whose fame is fast extending.

The travelling missionary once conveyed by dog train has been replaced by the more modern ministers, priest and parson, holding divine worship regularly instead of spasmodically, giving to each of their members the spiritual blessings necessary to Christian welfare.

Among the early missionaries, Rev. Father Lacombe holds a place unique among the inhabitants in Western Canada. His untiring efforts among the Indians and half-breeds through long weary years of labor were greatly revered.

The Right Rev. Bishop Pinkham was an Anglican missionary who labored zealously in this field, and men-

tion should be made of Rev. John MacDougall and his brother, Rev. George MacDougall, who labored for over forty years as missionaries in the Northwest Territories. Rev. Dr. McQueen, of Edmonton, assisted by local clergy which were changed from time to time, held services throughout the diocese.

CHAPTER X

THE Indian population that once held sway on these beautiful prairies has diminished or moved back to the hinterland of the far North. The progress of civilization has proved too much for the Indian, whose numbers are fast diminishing.

The gallant members of the old Northwest Mounted Police, with their red coats, who once patrolled the region, are now seldom seen. Law and order, which they once administered with justice and mercy, is now looked after by a host of provincial authorities.

The miner with his grizzly, the cowboy with his lasso, the Indian squaw with her papoose, are now only relicts of bygone days.

The herds of buffalo which once roamed unmolested over the prairies are no more, with the exception of a herd, which is fast increasing, preserved by the Dominion Government in a national park at Wainwright, Alberta.

The vacant prairie has now given place to fertile fields, which in harvest time glow with the hue of gold. Busy self-binders ply up and down great stretches of land, harvesting immense crops.

The shacks which once sheltered the early settlers have been replaced by more modern houses. The large red barns, filled annually with the fruits of the earth in abundance, attest the industry of man, working in conjunction with Nature.

To view the progress of the Northwest Territories now and let one's thought linger on the days that the Parry Sound colonists landed in Edmonton, is nothing less than marvelous, and although the picture of the early settler is a landmark in the prosperity of the country the reader must remember that thirty odd years have elapsed since the colony landed and the progress has been phenomenal, and the progress that is in store for the future will, in all probability surpass anything that can now be imagined.

It is said that for a matter of progress, the nineteenth century belongs to the United States of America, but the twentieth century will belong to Canada, and now that the foundation has been laid and the great productiveness has been attested, it only remains for the people to develop what are now and what in future will be known as the granaries of the Empire.

An industry that will develop in the West, owing to favorable climatic conditions, will be the rearing of fur-bearing animals in captivity. This already has been well started, and is a fascinating business, but one that calls for a thorough knowledge of the habits and requirements of the wild beasts.

Without such knowledge, the man who embarks in it would run the risk of heavy losses; but tact and experience will make this one of the most beneficial and paying operations that can be carried on in the Prairie West.

The fur-bearing animal industry as yet has a small output when compared with the value and number of pelts of animals taken in Canada in the wild state by trappers and hunters.

Nevertheless, the industry appears to be growing in

size and, if careful breeding can raise the standard and quality of pelts, should grow in importance as a source of supply for furs.

The changing fashions from time to time will tend to make one class of furs more valuable than the other in different years and in different seasons, but the demand for furs is constantly increasing as the population of the world increases.

The more artistic the modes, the greater will be the demand, and the source of supply will have to be expanded constantly, as the area where wild animals roam will become less as civilization advances.

Hence the domestic rearing of fur-bearing animals as a commercial enterprise will develop.

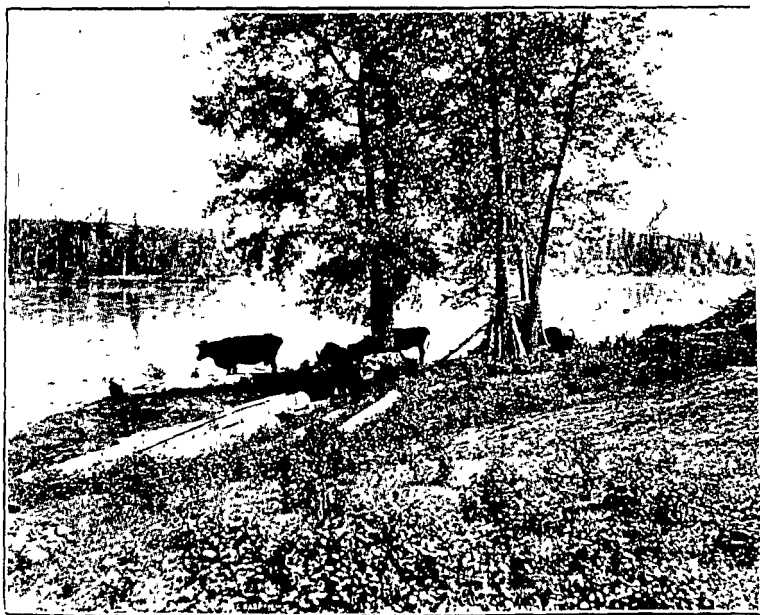
From the progeny of the stock imported with the early colonists from the Parry Sound district, upon which chattel mortgages were given to secure the transportation to the West, can be found many of the choice herds of cattle and horses now to be seen in western fields.

One particular cow, named "Tidy", moved to the Prairie West by a settler, lived and had increased every year until she was over twenty years old. This progeny was the foundation stock that gave a start to her owner, and to every member of his family.

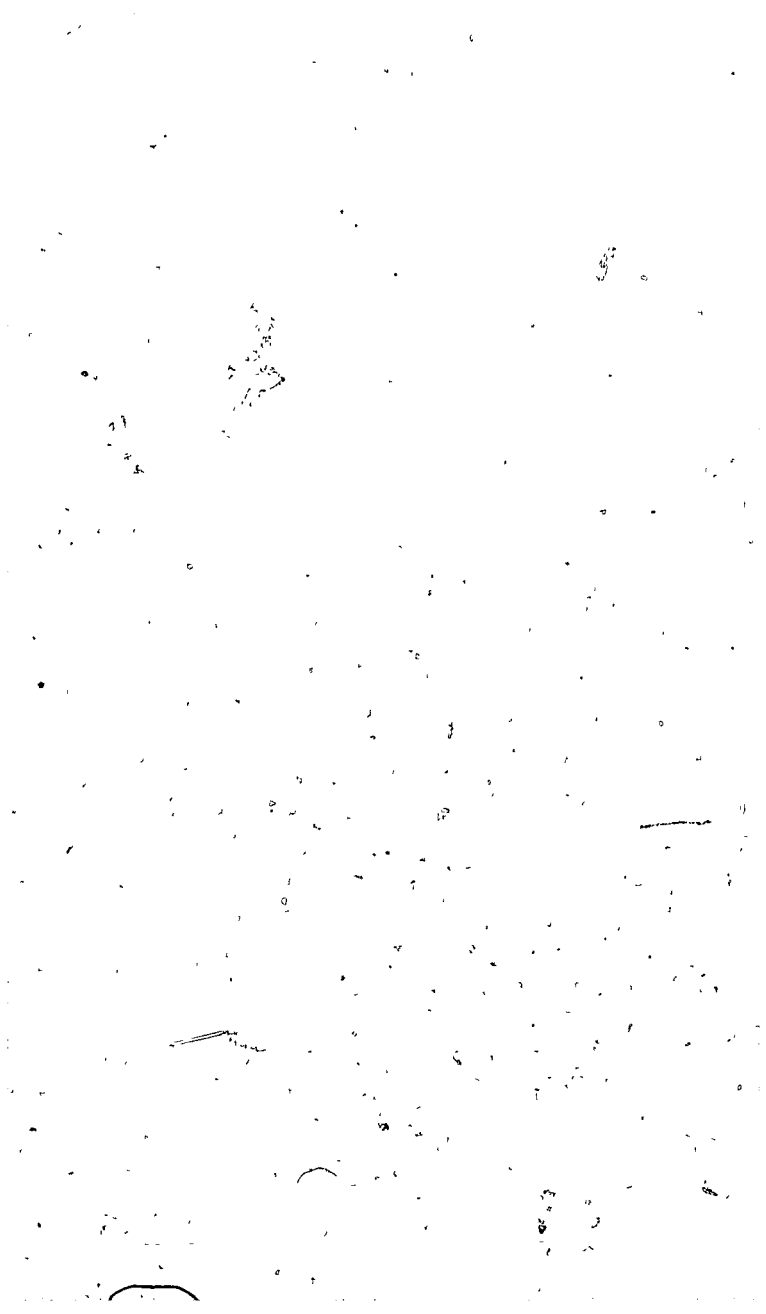
The luxuriant prairie grasses, together with pure water flowing in the Saskatchewan River and its tributaries, combine to give the beef a flavor much superior to the best stall-fed animals.

The lards, bacons and hams of the Province of Alberta are also becoming justly celebrated.

The high altitude develops the best winded horse known in Canada, and this industry—if not super-



"Tidy" and some of her Progeny. Near Fort Saskatchewan, 1894.



seded by the general use of motor cars—will in future be a factor in the development of the southern portion of Alberta.

The dairy products have found their way to the markets of the world, and have already established an enviable reputation, thus creating an industry which has given many sections of the Prairie West a permanent prosperity.

Creameries have been established to replace the old-fashioned milk-house with the dash churn, which withstood the blasts of many a severe winter, and the hot winds frequent in the summers gone by.

Brands were used to identify live stock, the branding irons being heated and the design burned on the animal. This design was registered and carried proof of ownership.

This may seem a cruel and heartless way to treat dumb animals, but the burn healed quickly, and hair of different shades made its appearance. Thus the initials or other mark of the owner were easily distinguished.

It is said that the Mounted Police used often to insert a silver coin in a particular place in derelicts (animals without apparent owners), that were released among others, in order that if any person branded an animal not his own, it might be examined and the best evidence obtained to convict a stock thief.

Not a few were caught by this and similar methods, and suffered the heavy penalties imposed.

At times the summer frosts were very heavy, destroying the crops. Frequently dry summers would be equally destructive, but these are passing away as more and more of the lands become cultivated.

The pests known in Eastern Canada as the Colorado

Beetle, or the potato bug are unknown in the western prairies, as the winters are too severe for them to survive. It is to be hoped that agricultural science will soon discover some means of entirely wiping out this pest.

Such action will make farmers realize that research and scientific work is of great benefit to the country, for now it is commonly said that the Government only wastes the taxpayers' money in keeping a retinue of civil servants in the different agricultural departments, both Dominion and Provincial, and no results are obtained.

The potato bug and sheep tick so far continue to mock rural science. The old cayuse or Indian pony, and the dog cart have passed as a mode of conveyance, modern automobiles having taken their place, adding greatly to the convenience of everyday life.

Thus friends and neighbors are brought together frequently, and with the installation of the telephone and rural mail service, life is much more worth living.

Hail storms were dreaded, as they frequently followed an extremely hot spell, and would completely annihilate crops along their paths, often strips of country about a mile wide and from water to water.

Nothing would be left for many an unfortunate settler in the year of the hail storm but the remembrance that he was baptized as an old-timer! Hailed out, frozen out—and sometimes burned out—but he still survived and came out rich, or at least with a competence for life after ten years, occasional crops being so abundant.

Long days of sunshine, the country being so far north, in the summer seasons made growth more rapid and vegetation rampant.

The sight of the prairie schooners passing along the trails was a thing never to be forgotten. These were canvas covered in arch shape, over the wagons, sheltering the occupants from the blazing sunshine, wind, hail and rain.

They were mostly used by the immigrants from the Dakotas, Minnesota and other states of the Union. These people were generally known among themselves as "sooners", or "sons of soñners", meaning people who had originally settled on government lands in the different States before they were surveyed and properly on the market.

They obtained what was known as "squatters' rights", giving them a kind of possessory title, after which they had the first opportunity to take the lands legally and obtain the patent in due course, or deed in fee.

They were a very migratory class of people, and as soon as the homestead patents were granted—sometimes previously—they would move again.

In one instance an entire settlement located at The Pines, now Lamont, moved away and the Government, it is said, had to pay the school debentures. The lands for a time were abandoned, but are now settled with a very prosperous people.

There is one phase of pioneering that is difficult to understand: the call of the wild! One would naturally think that one experience of homesteading would be sufficient, and when the country improved and all became civilized, with modern conveniences and facilities, that the early settlers would become satisfied and contented.

But such is often not the case, as the life on the

frontier of civilization often appeals to the settler and his family, and he longs for it again.

This feeling of freedom from all conventions seemed to appeal, and the mirth of freedom calling; as often when passing through these pioneer settlements one would hear the thrilling music of a couple of violins, sometimes accompanied by a piano.

Entering some temporary premises, one would hear the old-fashioned dances called off: "All join hands and circle to the West; swing your partner; all promenade. Right and left to the corner; balance all, birdie in the center and three hands around; hawk fly in and birdie fly out; hawk fly out and give birdie a swing!!"

This form of amusement followed generally the building of houses, barn raising and the threshing of grain.

Wonderful improvement has been made in the machinery that is used in the operations of threshing grain, and to see a spout as large as an ordinary stove-pipe filling the wagons, the boxes of which have hopper-bottoms, and the grain coming out of this spout in one continuous stream indicates to the onlooker the immense productiveness of the country which we call the Prairie West.

Systematic marketing of produce did not appeal as a subject of interest, as the new settlers for years rolling in to the different localities furnished a market close home.

This is not the case in Western Canada now. Farm produce must be exported to the markets of the world, and a system patterned to a certain extent after that used by the orange growers of California, or some other system which will prevent dumping and glutting the

markets, must be adopted and worked out to the benefit of the agriculturalist.

This might be as great a problem as to devise an equitable system between capital and labor, under some sort of government control, to provide for state insurance and old age pensions.

CHAPTER XI

WHAT the farmers want is something similar to what they had with the wartime Wheat Board in operation.

They want a chance to make a fair profit on their farming operations. This they had under the Wheat Board—all of them had it—and it was more or less guaranteed because the speculator and middleman were eliminated.

The wheat growers of the West are weary of the position they occupy with respect to marketing in the past, a position closely approaching serfdom.

They are determined in some way to find a new position in which they will be able to function more as free men. Surely they are not to be blamed for an aspiration so worthy.

Hence one finds a voluntary wheat pool in operation, and this has been a great benefit to the agriculturalists.

Prior to these improvements in marketing conditions it often happened that in the fall of the year, when farmers had their bills to pay and notes for machinery to meet, the markets would be glutted with all kinds of grain and the prices hammered down to a minimum.

But when the grain was out of the farmer's hands and into the hands of the speculators, the price would suddenly enhance and a few would make enormous profits at the expense of the masses.

With improved marketing conditions this state of

affairs has been alleviated and the benefits extended to all the people in the country generally, and great credit for this improvement is due to H. W. Woods, the energetic president of the United Farmers of Alberta.

Another improvement that should receive some consideration is Prison Reform, and it seems that the inmates of our prisons are the wards of the Dominion Government, and there is no valid reason why goods required for state use, and state use only, should not be made, insofar as is possible, in the prisons.

The Government spends many thousands of dollars yearly for furniture, furnishings and equipment of various kinds, a small portion of which could be made in the prisons.

The revenue derived from this source could be used to pay each inmate on his discharge, or to his family while he is in prison, a small wage which would materially assist the stricken family in keeping the wolf from the door while the wage-earner was incarcerated. Or in case the inmate had no family responsibilities, it would furnish him with sufficient funds on his discharge to assist him in making a fresh start in life.

With such employment and pay for their labor, a powerful incentive would be added to the industry and good conduct of the inmates; while the wardens of the different prisons would be relieved of the great trouble and anxiety now experienced by the lack of such provision.

Notwithstanding all the efforts put forth by those supposed to be responsible for prison management to obtain suitable employment for the unfortunate inmates, nothing has been accomplished.

The cry has gone forth that to permit convicts to do

such work would be taking the bread and butter out of the mouths of honest working men outside!!

How utterly hollow this argument is may be judged by the fact that fully one half of the inmates of the prisons are employed on work that pertains wholly to the institutions. The remainder who could be employed on government work would form an infinitesimally small percentage of those employed in the labor world in Canada.

Yet this cry has had the effect of blocking any scheme proposed for the manufacture of articles for the Government, except in a few very trifling classes, even binder twine.

There should be a parole officer employed in each prison area, whose duties would be to become fully acquainted with every convict in the institution; to make a full and exhaustive inquiry into each case, not only of the convict himself, but of the prison and court records regarding him, more particularly of his record, habits, associations, environment and life in general in the community in which he lived, thus arriving as nearly as possible at the reason for his downfall.

It would also be the duty of these officers to get fully into touch with the employers of labor in the districts, and seek out situations suitable for those to be paroled.

They should also visit as often as possible all paroled men, and receive reports from employers regarding their behavior.

These paroled men should remain under the control of the prison and the parole officer should have authority to cancel any parole and return the man to the prison on receipt of an adverse report from the area parole officer, after investigation.

As conditions are now, when a man commits a crime and is found guilty and sentenced to prison, he finds himself in many cases well provided for; in fact, he is better off than some have been when they are left to provide for themselves, and it is chiefly the innocent wife and family that have to suffer when the breadwinner is taken away.

Many times you will see the wife and family left to subsist on the doles served out by the municipality, at the expense of the innocent, but heavily burdened taxpayer; and it is to be hoped that some reform along the above lines will soon relieve the situation, for it seems that modern society cannot exist without some ~~infractions of the peace, and the punishment is most~~ cases falls on the parties that have little or nothing to do with the crime or offense.

The treatment of the criminal is purely a social matter, and full opportunity should be given those to whose charge he has been committed, to become acquainted with the social conditions under which the convicted one has lived and been reared.

So far the study of our criminals has largely been based on the observation of them when in prison, but while in prison no criminal is seen in his true self.

His environment is different; he is forced to obey rules and regulations, and all his acts are directed by authority, against which it is useless to rebel.

Much could be done toward reformation if we were permitted to thoroughly study the erring one, as he existed outside of prison.

If a study of those sentenced to prison for a first time were made, the fact would be revealed that they

almost invariably lack what the theorist and bookworm call "criminal characteristics".

Then is the time that efforts to redeem and reclaim them would produce results.

Because a man commits one bad act, we have no right to say he is a bad man, any more than a man who does one good act should be considered a good man.

The only principle of penology that is worthy of consideration is to find out the reason for wrong-doing, and endeavor to make it not worth while to repeat it.

In an endeavor to make the best of him, his liberty should be restricted as little as possible consistent with the safety and well-being of the community, more freedom being granted him as he shows himself worthy of it.

~~Every effort should be put forth to make the best of him, rather than the worst.~~

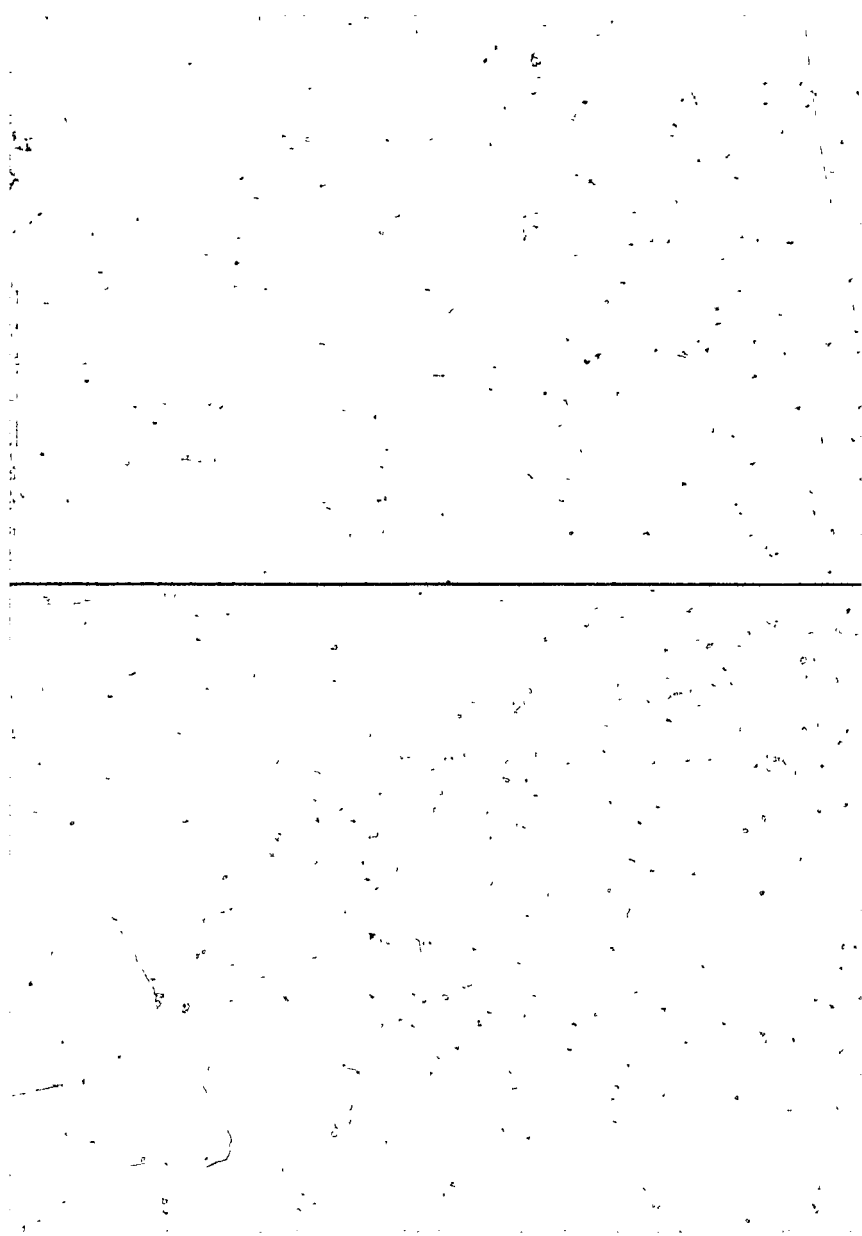
Since the adoption of prohibition of the liquor traffic in the Province of Alberta, and the inauguration of another system, known as "Government Control", the penitentiary has been closed entirely, and the few infractions of the law have been punished by sending the malefactors out of the Province to serve their time.

One can see from this what a great benefit has been to mankind to have done away with the old-fashioned license system of selling intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes.

That liquor is used and will be used for medicinal purposes seems to be an acknowledged fact, as the human race cannot apparently get along without it, but the greater the care in the administration and conduct of this traffic, the better it will appear to be for the masses of the people.



Threshing Scene in Alberta.



CHAPTER XII

FOR some time after the Parry Sound colony located in the West an element which had been used to rowdiness in the East—where it was often the case to have bare knuckle fights—often tried to antagonize the members of the Northwest Mounted Police.

There were frequent disturbances at the celebration of public holidays, but with a little tact it soon passed away, and all became useful and law-abiding subjects, and the greatest friendship prevailed, especially when celebrating the First of July, or Dominion Day.

Tractors and other modern machinery are taking the place of the three-or-four-horse teams once the pride of many an early homesteader, who usually had a team of greys for a lead team.

In every bunch of horses running loose on the prairie pastures the greys were the easiest distinguished, except in very cold weather (as horses that were not needed for work frequently ran outside during the entire winter, and kept fat pawing off the snow and living on the dead grasses that cured like hay in the dry autumns) when they became almost white as snow.

The mirage there was a thing to amaze. One would fancy objects miles away coming closer and all appeared moving, with the white frosts hanging from the boughs of the trees and dangling from the willows.

The trappers, in the winter, obtained great quantities

of furs of an excellent variety, also catching an abundance of fish, some of which provided rations for dogs and food for the table.

Shooting prairie chickens beguiled the dull moments for many a lonely homesteader, and wild ducks and geese furnished food.

Trapping fur-bearing animals was an occupation that appealed to many on the frontier of civilization, and was a very lucrative pastime.

Script, or official writing entitling the holder to locate land in free grant sections, was given to the half-breeds descended from the Indians in the years 1899 and 1900.

This caused a great deal of excitement among the buyers, as most of it was sold by the "breeds" a few minutes after it was issued, for an insignificant amount.

This was subsequently located by a Power of Attorney that was given by the half-breeds to the buyer at the time of purchase.

These lands were afterwards sold at good figures, and some speculators laid the foundations of fortunes that were later made.

Trading with the Indians on their reserves, after they had received their treaty money—a yearly allowance paid by the Dominion Government—pursuant to treaty, was an annual event of recreation and profit for the merchants.

The giving of presents, generally trinkets, to the Indians in order to lure them to spend their money, was a feature of the occasion worth watching. This, and the annual Indian pow wow, an Indian dance, war paint, bells and gorgeous decorations, afforded much amusement.

The foreigners from Galicia, Austria and some from

Poland, made their appearance in this region about this time. To see them in their full regalia of white linen in the summer, and heavy sheepskin coats in winter, was a sight that broke the monotony and gave the streets of the villages and towns a new appearance, and business an impetus at a time when it was greatly needed, as the traders had very dull times when there was a dearth of immigration, and during seasons of crop failures.

These foreigners had to try and master a sufficient understanding of the English language to conduct their business, although they lived very much to themselves in settlements of their own, carrying on farming on a small scale, with their own churches and sometimes schools.

The majority of these people were of the Orthodox Greek faith, with a minority of adherents of the Roman Catholic Church.

On one occasion they tried to unite, but the result was a lawsuit which ended at the foot of the Throne, the Privy Council in England, numbers of farmers were nearly ruined paying the costs of the suit, although the bone of contention was merely a small piece of land worth little or nothing in a country where millions of acres of virgin prairie await the plough, and a few sawn logs essential for building purposes.

The lawsuit mentioned is the famous "Limestone Lake Case", in which foreign material was allowed to creep in, and finally the question of incorporation of the different bodies in Canada became an issue in the Courts.

The rivers that run so swiftly, the lakes that are teeming with fish of all kinds, remained yet to be harnessed for the everlasting benefit of mankind. The

rivers a thousand miles long, falling from the Rocky Mountains to Lake Winnipeg will in the future develop electrical power.

What a heritage for the British people!! To think that every youth is an heir to these lands, and is given free 160 acres as soon as he attains his eighteenth year, for certain residence and improvement requirements.

The rich coal fields, planted by Nature, are just now coming to the fore, together with the petroleum deposits now being developed on a paying basis, and ere long one of the next problems will be to see that these commodities find their way to the world markets.

The planting of trees and the general development of horticulture have gone hand in hand, replacing the one-time loneliness of the prairies in their virgin state, when they were covered with wild roses, pea vine, vetches and some wild fruits.

The howl of the coyote, or prairie wolf, which is a timid animal, but with a fearful and dreary howl, on dismal winter nights, together with the dread of the prairie fires in the early spring and late autumn, are recollections that live only in the memories of those sturdy pioneers who inhabited the prairies in days gone by.

The Grim Reaper has taken his toll. How many of the original colonists who left Sundridge station in the first two colonies in the spring seasons of 1892 and 1894, from the country surrounding the beautiful little village of Magnetawan, have been spared to witness the changes?

True, they did their part heroically, and posterity will ever honor their forefathers who were the pioneer settlers in and around the old Northwest Mounted Police post

of Fort Saskatchewan, reminding one of the sentiments expressed in Longfellow's beautiful poem:

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime;
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

Footprints that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main;
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, may take heart again.

Let us then be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate.
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor, and to wait."

Did humanity ever set for itself a nobler task than that of pioneering in a new and virgin country? There the work of Nature can be seen on every side, and there avarice and selfishness are almost unknown, and all are engaged in man's primitive occupations: tilling the soil, guarding the flocks and herds, fishing in the waters, hunting in the wilderness, and mining under the ground.

There the brotherhood of man is amplified, and common interests cement together social ties and friendships, and there the works of the Creator are seen before man makes any contributions or contaminations.

The beautiful sunsets and the northern lights, in the lands of the midnight sun, would convince the greatest unbeliever that the Great Architect of the Universe guards all mankind.

Interest in the past and provision for the future, are perhaps the essential elements of difference between the civilized man and the savage, and this narrative is written with the object of keeping alive the memory of pioneer life in the Prairie West, as the writer experienced it.

THE land that is now Canada has been particularly favored in the share of that historical heritage which has fallen to its lot. A past, full of myth and legend in its possession; mirth from the forest and gold from the mines; a past rich in Indian Lore and Indian relicts; a past vivid and gleaming in its details of discovery, adventure and exploration; inspiring in its pioneering and settlement, and full of spirit of heroic self-sacrifice that has made of the prairies and the wilderness lands of comfort and plenty, with peace and contentment, reigning supreme in the cabins, cottages and mansions throughout the length and breadth of the broad Dominion on which the sun never sets. What a past on which to pen a story and what a future to draw a picture of what it will be as a part of His Majesty's Empire?

The day is past when full attention may be gained and held by dull Legislative records and royal warrants. Life has become too wide in its interests for that limited education.

The world now wants to know the kind of people who made the country, how they lived, how they dressed, how they conducted society for social intercourse, and what they did for amusement and recreation.

The outlook for the future is just coming to the fore and ere long the general opinion will be that what the nineteenth century was to the United States of America, so the twentieth century will be for Canada and, particularly, the Prairie West.

L'ENVOI

ECHOES FROM NATURE

The smile of the sun for pardon
The song of the birds for mirth,
We are nearer God's home in the garden,
Than anywhere else on Earth.

The shadow of noonday declining,
The linnet, the peak of it all,
Must in this world be dividing
The good from the bad in us all.

The causes that never know failure,
The wilds where the caribou stroll,
The forests that ring with laughter;
Oh, God! How they beckon my soul!!

The toils that are always mocking
The leaves that never are still,
The winds that drop in their balking;
I want to go there—and will.

The times that ever are brighter,
The lands that never were tilled,
Echo for volunteer workers,
And they must go that will.

The river that ever was running,
The creeks that never were still,
The blue-jay caressed in humming,
The carol that has a thrill.

Remember the Prince of Nature,
Always the care bestowed
On children loving others;
Imbibing the mirth in their souls.

The rainbow with many colors,
The sky that was ever red;
The horizon steeped in embers,
The charms of enchantment they lend.

Wild roses that bloom in the summer,
Sweat pea vine that tangles the shrouds;
The bees that are working in flowers,
Not always those dropping down.

These are the wards of the Maker,
Filling the hearts of their King;
Bowing their heads in slumber,
Asking His pardon for sin.

As season's time draws nearer,
Their tasks are well-nigh done.
Each made its mission dearer
To God's children that are young.

This earth, without its singers,
What a desert, it would be,
For all those who linger
After charming melodies.

Oh! The beauty of the flowers,
And the rapture of the winds;
Can you resist these callers,
When tramping through the vines?

They all answer to the showers,
As is seen the World around,
Knowing each must be mourners,
Of a distant vineyard ground.

The light down of the thistle,
That blows on every owner,
Would seem like every missile,
But for the Great Controller.

W. C. Pollard.

A.D., 1926.

